

Aruba Recognized At DC Energy Summit

Vice President Joe Biden speaks at this week's inaugural Caribbean Energy Security Summit, at the State Department in Washington.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

WASHINGTON/ORANJES-TAD - Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman was invited to the first Caribbean Energy Security Summit this week, organized by US Vice President Joe Biden. Caribbean leaders from 36 delegations participated in this summit held in Washington D.C. to discuss solutions for the transformation of conventional energy to sustainable energy. PM Eman also had the honor to participate on a panel addressing "Comprehensive Approaches to Energy Transformation"

during Monday's session. PM Eman was joined on the panel by Jose Maria Figueres, president of the Carbon War Room founded by Sir Richard Branson and other dignitaries. Prime Minister Eman had the unique opportunity to share several of Aruba's recent great strides towards sustainability directly to Vice President Biden and the 700+ delegates at the conference. Eman discussed Aruba's desire to not only have 5 star hotels, but to also have 5 star

schools, neighborhoods, elderly homes, as well as a 5 star quality of life for citizens. Eman assured the audience that this is obtainable and Eman's words were reiterated by VP Biden in his speech stating that Aruba has shown proven progress towards sustainability in reference to renewable energy. "If you see the dedication of our citizens towards work and towards accomplishments for the families and what their responsibility is, you see that we have

the potential to realize our goals. Even if we look at larger countries to help us solve our issues, we have our own responsibility and that's the way we see it in Aruba and that is also the way we have approached it," stated PM Eman during luncheon address. The island of Aruba decided that the way to achieve these goals is for the government and the country to put a clear point on the horizon: Where do we want to be by 2020? "We set out a goal to be-

come 100% sustainable by 2020 and by setting that goal, and not asking a larger country or any international organization for help, with all respect for all of the international organizations here, but what we do for ourselves and the responsibility we accept as an island nation and the responsibilities we have with our citizens, and based on that motivation, we went to work," clarified PM Eman.

Continued on page 13

Raising fears of escalation; Hezbollah attack kills Israeli soldiers near Lebanon

ISABEL KERSHNER
ANNE BARNARD

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JERUSALEM - Two Israeli soldiers were killed and seven were wounded in a missile attack Wednesday as they drove in a disputed zone along the Lebanese border, Israel said, in the most serious flare-up in the area in years. Hezbollah claimed responsibility.

between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006.

A Spanish soldier serving with the U.N. peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon was also killed during the clashes. José Manuel García-Margallo, Spain's foreign minister, told reporters on Wednesday that once his government had enough information about how the soldier died, "its

to say who was responsible. The Security Council was meeting in an emergency session to discuss the peacekeeper's death. About 10,000 United Nations troops are stationed along the Israel-Lebanon frontier.

Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, a spokesman for the Israeli military, said the military had conveyed its condo-

to civilian traffic into the evening.

About an hour after the attack on the soldiers' convoy, several mortar shells were fired at Israeli military positions in the border area and on Mount Hermon in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. No injuries were reported.

The Israeli military said that it had responded to the at-

Radicals rampage northeast Nigeria; no troops fighting

I. ABDULAZIZ
H. UMAR

Associated Press

YOLA, Nigeria (AP) — Islamic extremists are rampaging through villages in northeastern Nigeria, killing, burning and looting with no troops protecting civilians, fleeing villagers said Wednesday.

More than 40 people have been killed in seven villages in Adamawa state this week, according to resident Emmanuel Kwache.

"They slaughtered people like rams and they burned down our houses after looting food," Kwache said.

"There's no presence of troops, some residents are hiding on top of hills, while those that could not run were abducted, particularly youths and women." State legislator Adamu Kamale said he has appealed in vain for troops since the attacks began on Friday. On Monday the militants moved into Michika town, he said.

In Maiduguri, capital of Borno state and some 200 kilometers (125 miles) north of Michika, people fleeing other Boko Haram attacks say the militants warned they are preparing to massacre them in Maiduguri and that "there will be no mercy."

Maiduguri is the biggest city in the northeast where troops repelled a daring offensive by hundreds of militants Sunday. Boko Haram attacked Maiduguri at three entry points and at least 200 combatants were killed in prolonged gun battles, according to residents and security forces.

"They kept saying ... we can all run into the big grave they are preparing for us in Maiduguri", said Aishatu Ba'malum, who fled from Monguno, a northeast town taken Sunday by militants.

Maiduguri's population of 2 million has been swollen by about 200,000 refugees who have fled Boko Haram in the surrounding countryside. Four roads lead to Maiduguri and Boko Haram already controls access to three. □



Israeli soldiers secure the Israel-Lebanon border, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015. Two Israeli soldiers were killed and seven were wounded in a missile attack Wednesday as they drove in a disputed zone along the Lebanese border, Israel said, in the most serious flare-up in the area in years. Hezbollah claimed responsibility.

(AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)

The attack raised the risk of a further escalation between Israel and Hezbollah, the Lebanese militant group that is one of Israel's most tenacious enemies. Both sides lobbed rockets and artillery at each other for hours afterward, though a tense quiet prevailed by midafternoon.

Hezbollah, which had vowed to avenge a deadly Israeli strike on its fighters in southern Syria this month, said in a statement that its Quneitra Martyrs Brigade had carried out the missile strike at 11:35 a.m.

The flare-up shattered a fragile calm that has mostly held along the frontier since the monthlong war

hand will not shake when it comes to demand full responsibilities" for the killing. The peacekeeper was killed in an explosion at a U.N. base near the village of Ghajar, said Andrea Tenenti, a spokesman for the force, who said all the parties knew the locations of the bases. The U.N. has not determined whether the fire was Israeli, and an investigation was underway, Tenenti said. At the U.N. headquarters in New York, a spokesman, Stéphane Dujarric, said the peacekeeper had been killed in a crossfire, when six rockets were fired at Israeli positions and Israel forces responded. Dujarric declined

lences over the death of the Spanish soldier and was investigating the circumstances.

Lerner said the Israeli soldiers had been traveling in unarmored, unmarked, white vehicles - an Isuzu D-Max truck and a Citroen Berlingo van - on a road civilians also use, about a mile from the border, when they were hit by five anti-tank missiles fired from less than 3 miles away. The first vehicle was hit, killing the two soldiers, and the wounded soldiers exited their vehicle to take cover. There were "civilian vehicles also in the vicinity," Lerner said. Three areas of the Golan Heights were closed

tacks with combined aerial and ground strikes on what it called "Hezbollah operational positions" in Lebanon, and that it might take further action. Israeli government and military leaders were meeting for consultations.

Tensions have been building for days in the triangle of territory between Israel, Lebanon and Syria as Israel has braced for retaliation for the Jan. 18 airstrike that killed an Iranian general and five fighters from Hezbollah, including Jihad Mughniyeh, whose father, Imad Mughniyeh, was the group's military commander until his assassination in 2008. □



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Attorney General nominee defends Obama immigration changes

ERICA WERNER
ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. attorney general nominee Loretta Lynch, confronting skeptical Republicans, pledged a new start with Congress and independence from President Barack Obama Wednesday, even as she defended the president's unilateral protections for millions of immigrants in the U.S. illegally.

"If confirmed as attorney general, I would be myself. I would be Loretta Lynch," the nominee told her Senate confirmation hearing as Republicans showered criticism on the current occupant of the job, Eric Holder. They said Holder was contemptuous of Congress and too politically close to Obama, and repeatedly demanded assurances that Lynch would do things differently.

"You're not Eric Holder, are you?" Texas Republican John Cornyn, one of the current attorney general's most persistent critics, asked at one point.

"No, I'm not, Sir," Lynch responded with a smile.

It was a moment that summed up a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing that was often more about Obama and Holder than about Lynch, who is now the top federal prosecutor for parts of New York City and Long Island. If confirmed, she would become the nation's first black female attorney general.

Holder, Cornyn contended, "operated as a politician using the awesome power conferred by our laws on the attorney general." Lynch asked the senator

past six years, clashing continually with lawmakers and becoming the first sitting attorney general to be held in contempt of Congress. On immigration, Lynch

deal with the problem" of illegal immigration. She said the Homeland Security Department was focusing on removals of "the most dangerous of the undocumented

ecutions, but who has also sought it in past cases.

On another controversial topic, Lynch said that current National Security Agency intelligence-gathering programs are "constitutional and effective." She said she hopes Congress will renew three expiring provisions in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which allows the FBI to obtain search warrants and communications intercepts in intelligence cases.

Beyond his clashes with Congress, Holder has faced accusations from critics that he has aligned himself more with protesters alleging police violence than with members of law enforcement, a contention he and the Justice Department have strongly denied. It's an area Lynch is familiar with. She helped prosecute New York City police officers who beat and sexually assaulted Haitian immigrant Abner Louima in 1997, and her office in New York is currently leading a civil rights investigation into the police chokehold death of Eric Garner in New York last summer.

Lynch told senators that one of the most important issues facing the country is "the need to resolve the tensions that appear to be discussed and appear to be rising between law enforcement and the communities that we serve." She said the best way to deal with the problem is to get all parties "to meet and talk." □



Attorney General nominee Loretta Lynch returns to Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015, to testify after a short break of the Senate Judiciary Committee's hearing on her nomination. If confirmed, Lynch would replace Attorney General Eric Holder, who announced his resignation in September after leading the Justice Department for six years. The 55-year-old federal prosecutor would be the nation's first black female attorney general.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

to take note of "the independence that I've always brought to every particular matter," and she said that when merited she would say no to Obama.

The hearing was the first such proceeding since Republicans retook control of the Senate in January. Lynch is expected to win confirmation without difficulty in the end, in part because Republicans are so eager to be rid of Holder. He has been a lightning rod for conservatives over the

faced numerous questions from Republicans critical of the administration's new policy granting work permits and temporary deportation relief to some 4 million people who are in the U.S. illegally. The committee chairman, Republican Chuck Grassley, called the effort "a dangerous abuse of executive authority." Lynch said she had no involvement in drafting the measures but called them "a reasonable way to marshal limited resources to

ed immigrants among us." Lynch found occasions to differentiate herself from Holder but without contradicting him. She stated without hesitation under questioning from Sen. Lindsey Graham that she considers the death penalty an effective punishment and has sometimes sought it in her district. That was a rhetorical shift from Holder, who has expressed personal reservations about the punishment, particularly in light of recent botched ex-

The Big Dig:

New England prepares to clean up after monster storm

KATHARINE Q. SEELYE
© 2015 New York Times

BOSTON - After leaving record amounts of snow in parts of New England, the first major winter storm of the year ebbed overnight, leaving the region to start digging out. But the reprieve was expected to be temporary; additional snow is in the forecast for Friday and Monday, along with subzero temperatures. Travel bans were lifted across the region by Wednesday morning, and cars were starting to crawl along the roads, many of which had still not been plowed.

There were no longer whiteout conditions, but mountains of plowed snow blocked sightlines. One of the biggest problems now is where to put all the snow. The Boston subway system, shut down Monday night, cranked back up, as did Amtrak service to New York.

Most flights were still canceled, but Logan International Airport was open.

"We've come out of this in relatively good shape," Gov. Charlie Baker of Massachusetts told reporters.

Convoys of utility workers began arriving on the island of Nantucket, where all 12,800 residents had lost power Tuesday. Power was restored to more than 8,000 customers Tuesday night, but 4,600 were still



People work to shovel snow-covered cars out in Boston's Charlestown section, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015, one day after a blizzard dumped about two feet of snow in the city.

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

without on Wednesday. Truck convoys from National Grid came by ferry and freight boat to help turn the power back on; shortly after noon, they still had to service about 2,000 homes. "We have to literally go up and down every single street to patrol the lines to make sure they are now in a position to receive power," Marcy Reed, the president of National Grid Massachusetts, told The Cape Cod Times.

"We can't turn the switch to the whole island until we know all the lines are ready," she said after delivering coffee and doughnuts to the departing workers.

ers. "So it's going to be quite a bit of work. It'll take us hours to do it, but I'm certainly hoping we finish this up today."

Baker added a hastily scheduled trip to Nantucket on Wednesday afternoon after visiting the town

of Scituate, which suffered flooding during the storm.

Before deciding to go to Nantucket, Baker had planned to visit Marshfield, a town near Scituate, which also had heavy flooding. With the change in plans, he sent Lt. Gov.

Karyn Polito to Marshfield. Some houses there were condemned because they were in danger of collapsing into the sea; about 1,100 people there still had no power.

The only storm-related death in Massachusetts was reported Wednesday in New Bedford.

A man died while he was shoveling snow; he also was reported to have had a pre-existing condition that may have contributed to his death.

In Boston, where every other person seemed to be carrying a shovel, one particular shoveler drew global attention when he cleared the snow off the finish line of the Boston Marathon. The line, painted across Boylston Street in the marathon's colors of blue and yellow, has become a symbol of remembrance for the victims, survivors and the city itself since the bombings at the 2013 event. □

New York politicians defend storm response

NEW YORK (AP) — New York's leaders were on the defensive after shutting down America's biggest city for a snowstorm that failed to meet expectations here after forecasters warned of a storm of potentially historic proportions.

Before the heavy snows even reached New York City on Tuesday, officials closed schools, shut down bridges and tunnels, canceled commuter rail service and, for the first time ever in a snowstorm, closed the sprawling subway train system. A travel ban was put in place, and drivers were subject to arrest.

The meteorologists whose forecasts informed the region's actions this week were wrong about the storm's impact on New York City, and some even apologized. The storm was powerful on New York's suburban Long Island and to the north in New England,

where the Boston area was buried in more than 2 feet (half a meter) of snow and lashed with hurricane-force winds. But it ended up leaving far less than a foot (30 centimeters) of snow in New York City.

So the decision to lock down the city — particularly the closure of the subways — drew significant criticism from some business owners and transit advocacy groups. Such measures were unheard of until the past five years, when they were put in place for a pair of hurricanes.

That could be the new normal.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio staunchly defended their unprecedented, stringent restrictions, both saying they believed in landing on the side of caution and suggesting they would take such measures again.

"You can't put a price on safety," he said Wednesday

on NBC's "Today" show.

For both men, mistakes made during previous storms guided their decisions.

Cuomo acknowledged that his decision to act aggressively stems from the historic storm that blanketed the city of Buffalo with seven feet (over 2 meters) of snow late last year.

"We make big decisions based on these weather forecasts," the governor said. "We decided not to close the roads in Buffalo ... and we had people stranded on the roads for 12, 15, 20 hours. You can have a significant loss of life in these situations."

New York City lost about \$200 million in economic activity because of the snow storm and decision to shut down the transit system, but it wasn't a crippling loss, according to a preliminary estimate from Moody's Analytics. □



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South Carolina court clears 'Friendship Nine' in 1961 sit-in



Ernest A. Finney, Jr., a former South Carolina Supreme Court justice, signs a book about the Friendship Nine before a hearing formally exonerating the black men convicted in 1961 of sitting at a segregated lunch counter, in Rock Hill, S.C., Jan. 28, 2015. The push to clear the Friendship 9 is part of a broader movement to bestow hometown-hero status on once-shunned civil rights protesters.

(Megan Gielow/The New York Times)

RICHARD FAUSSET

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ROCK HILL, S.C. - Fifty-four years after they went to jail for an anti-segregation protest in this former mill town, the African-American men who came to be known as the Friendship Nine returned to court Wednesday dressed in their sober Sunday best, as though a judge might sentence them again.

One man used a cane. Another, a wheelchair. Some bodies had thickened, and some hair had thinned since the morning in 1961 when they were arrested and dragged by the police out of a downtown five-and-dime store, then sentenced to 30 days' labor in a county prison camp.

The court came to order. A judge read their names. Each man stood or raised a hand when called. Each face was grave.

"Offense, trespassing," the judge said after each name. "Disposition: guilty. Sentence: \$100, or 30 days. Conditions: Sent to chain gang." But on this day, the state of South Carolina would unburden these men of their criminal records, vacating the misdemeanor or trespassing charges filed against them.

A white prosecutor, Kevin Brackett, speaking on behalf of the justice system, apologized. The judge,

who is also white, told the men they should have never been charged in the first place.

"We cannot rewrite history, but we can right history," said the judge, John C. Hayes III, the chief administrative judge for South Carolina's 16th Judicial Circuit. "Now, as to the Friendship Nine, is the time and opportunity to do so. Now is the time to recognize that justice is not temporal but is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow."

The sit-in by the men on Jan. 31, 1961, was a small but important moment in the civil rights movement. Their calculated refusal to pay their fines and instead serve jail time was soon imitated by other activists. The news that the young men, most of them clean-cut students at the now-closed Friendship College, had been sent to shovel sand in a county prison camp reinvigorated efforts to end the segregation of restaurants and other public facilities in the South.

Some of the men who stayed in Rock Hill believe they were subtly persecuted for taking a stand, and their story settled into obscurity. But in recent years, the community has fully embraced the Friendship Nine as heroes.

The courtroom Wednesday morning was packed

to capacity, the racially diverse crowd of friends, family members, local officials and children clutching

copies of "No Fear for Freedom," a children's book about the sit-in. The book was written by Kimberly P.

Johnson, who months ago approached Brackett's office about vacating the charges. □



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US Justices stay executions of 3, pending drug decision

ADAM LIPTAK

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WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed the executions of three Oklahoma inmates who were challenging the state's lethal injection protocol on the grounds that it might cause intense suffering.

In a brief, unsigned order, the court banned Oklahoma from executing the inmates using the particular chemical they challenged, the sedative midazolam.

"It is hereby ordered that petitioners' executions using midazolam are stayed pending final disposition of this case," the order said, leaving open the possibility that the executions could proceed if the state obtained and used a substitute chemical.

The order came just days after the court agreed Friday to hear the inmates' case, which contends that new combinations of execution drugs used in several states violate the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment. But the court's action arrived too late for a fourth petitioner in the case, Charles F. Warner, who was executed Jan. 15 after the court rejected his stay application in a 5-4 vote.

That sequence of events brought attention to a gap in the court's internal procedures, which require the votes of four justices to add a case to the court's docket but five to stop an execution. In a dissent from the court's Jan. 15 order denying stays for all four inmates, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, writing for the court's four-member liberal wing, said there was "a reasonable probability" that the court would grant review of the case. Warner, who had raped and

murdered an 11-month-old baby, was executed that night. "I hope that our failure to act today does not portend our unwillingness to consider these questions," Sotomayor wrote.

No. 14-7955. On Friday, the court renamed it, and it is now called *Glossip v. Gross*, No. 14-7955.

But the court waited until Wednesday to revisit its decision to deny stays of exe-

cution. R. Cole Sr., on March 5.

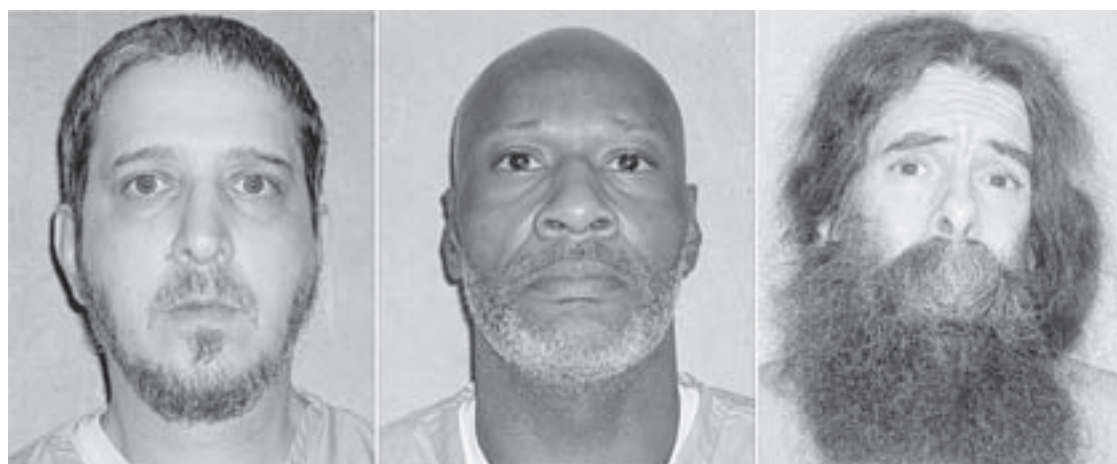
The court will hear arguments in their case in late April, almost two months after the last scheduled execution.

Glossip was convicted of ar-

Oklahoma officials initially opposed stays of execution for all four men. They changed course Monday, asking the Supreme Court to grant stays for the remaining three until the case was decided or until the state could obtain "a viable alternative" to midazolam.

Oklahoma started using midazolam because companies making traditional barbiturates, which have a longer track record and deeper anesthetic properties, have refused to provide them for executions. Midazolam is used as the first chemical in a three-part drug cocktail. It is meant to render the prisoner unconscious before the injection of a paralytic and then a caustic heart-stopping agent.

In April, things went awry at the execution of Clayton D. Lockett, who appeared to moan and struggle after the drug cocktail was administered.



An undated handout photo of Richard E. Glossip, from left, John M. Grant and Benjamin R. Cole Sr., the three Oklahoma inmates whose executions were stayed by the Supreme Court in a ruling on Jan. 28, 2015. In a brief unsigned order, the court barred Oklahoma from executing the inmates using the particular chemical they challenged, the sedative midazolam.

(Oklahoma DOC via The New York Times)

A little more than a week later, on Jan. 23, the court agreed to hear the case of the remaining three inmates. The case used to be called *Warner v. Gross*,

cution to the three remaining petitioners: Richard E. Glossip, who had been scheduled to be executed Thursday; John M. Grant, on Feb. 19; and Benjamin

ranging the beating death of his employer, Grant of stabbing a prison cafeteria worker to death and Cole of breaking his 9-month-old daughter's spine, killing her.

Texas inmate set to die Thursday for 1996 slaying

MICHAEL GRACZYK

Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Robert Ladd was paroled after serving about a third of his 40-year prison sentence for the fatal stabbing of a Dallas woman whose body was set ablaze in a fire that killed her two children.

Four years later, a mentally impaired woman in East Texas was strangled and beaten with a hammer. Her arms and legs were bound, bedding was placed between her legs, and — like the Dallas woman more than a decade earlier in 1980 — was set on fire in her apartment.

Ladd is scheduled to be executed Thursday for the

1996 killing of 38-year-old Vickie Ann Garner, whose burned body was found in her apartment. His attorneys insist Ladd is mentally impaired, and on Wednesday asked the U.S. Supreme Court to step in.

The high court hadn't ruled on the request, and appeals in other courts are still pending. But if none halts the sentence, Ladd will be the second inmate this year to be executed in nation's most active death penalty state.

Ladd came within hours of execution in 2003, before a federal court agreed to hear evidence about juvenile records that suggested he was mentally impaired. Those arguments have

since been turned down by the courts, including by the U.S. Supreme Court last year, but his attorneys aren't backing away from the argument.

They cite a psychiatrist's determination that Ladd, then a 13-year-old in custody of the Texas Youth Commission, had an IQ of only 67. Courts have embraced scientific studies that consider an IQ of 70 a threshold for impairment, and the Supreme Court has barred execution of mentally impaired people.

His attorneys also say Ladd has long had difficulties with social skills and functioning on his own.

"The Texas courts insist on severely misjudging his in-

tellectual capacity, relying on standards for gauging intelligence... that have nothing to do with science or medicine," said Ladd's lead attorney on the appeal, Brian Stull, a senior staff lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union Capital Punishment Project.

Ladd also is part of a lawsuit that questions the "quality and viability" of Texas' supply of its execution drug, pentobarbital.

A federal judge in Houston rejected the suit's arguments, which the Texas Attorney General's Office called "nothing more than rank speculation," but his lawyers said they would appeal.



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US Financial Front:

Fed stays 'patient' on rates while noting improving economy

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve reiterated Wednesday that it will be "patient" in raising interest rates from record lows even as the U.S. economy moves steadily closer to full health.

The Fed signaled in a statement after its latest policy meeting that no rate increase is imminent despite the economic gains. A key reason is that inflation remains well below the Fed's target rate.

And it said the pressures holding down inflation — mainly plunging oil prices — have intensified. The Fed said it thinks inflation will decline further before eventually reaching the central bank's 2 percent target rate.

Yet the Fed sketched a brightening picture of the economy — with a strengthening job market, lower unemployment, rising consumer spending and

higher household purchasing power fueled by lower energy prices.

Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics, said the statement suggests that the Fed "is still taking the view that the collapse in oil prices is a net positive for the economy." The Fed's statement also made clear that policy-makers still think the impact of low oil prices on inflation will be temporary, Ashworth said.

The statement was approved on a 10-0 vote.

On Wall Street, stocks fell after the Fed's statement was issued in mid-afternoon, though prices were also pressured by the continued fall in oil prices.

And the yield on the 10-year Treasury note touched 1.70 percent, the lowest level this year. It edged back up to 1.72 percent late in day, compared with 1.82 percent late Wednesday.

The Fed's emphasis on low



Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, right, smiles as he talks with Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen during the open session of the Financial Stability Oversight Council, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015, at the Treasury Department in Washington.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

inflation could affect when it decides to raise its key short-term rate from near zero. Many economists have forecast a rate hike in June, but some have pushed back their predicted timetable.

The Fed's statement did

not explicitly mention the weakening global economy. But it did say the Fed planned to take "international developments" into account in determining when to start raising rates.

The Fed operates with two key mandates: Maximizing

employment and keeping prices rising at a moderate pace of 2 percent.

The U.S. economy's steady growth and a strengthening job market would normally argue for a move to begin raising rates to prevent high inflation. □

Mobile provider TracFone to pay \$40M in federal settlement

JENNIFER C. KERR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The largest U.S. prepaid mobile provider, TracFone Wireless, will pay \$40 million to settle government claims that it misled millions of smartphone customers with promises of unlimited data service.

The Federal Trade Commission said Wednesday that TracFone's advertising promised unlimited data, but the company then drastically slowed down consumers' data speeds —

a practice known as throttling — when they had used a certain amount of data within a 30-day period. In some cases, the FTC said, the company cut off customers' data service when they ran over the limit.

TracFone's prepaid wireless service is sold under various brands, including Straight Talk, Net10, Simple Mobile and Telcel America.

Throttling will slow down the ability to open Web pages or stream video. According to the commission, TracFone generally throttled

the data flow when a customer used about 1 gigabyte to 3 gigabytes. Data service was sometimes suspended at 4 gigabytes to 5 gigabytes, the FTC said.

"The issue here is simple: Unlimited means unlimited," said Jessica Rich, director of the FTC's consumer protection bureau, in a call with reporters. "This case is about false advertising."

In a statement, TracFone said it worked with the commission to "reach an amicable settlement, and we have no further com-

ment at this time."

The prepaid monthly plans were sold at Walmart, Best Buy, Target and other retailers across the country as well as online.

Consumers who had a Straight Talk, Net10, Simple Mobile, or Telcel America unlimited plan before January 2015 can file a claim for a refund. Refunds will vary depending on several factors, including how long a consumer had the TracFone plan and how many consumers request refunds. The FTC charges that Trac-

Fone has been throttling consumers or cutting unlimited service since 2009. The commission's complaint says there was no technical reason for TracFone to limit the data plans, such as slowing speeds because of network congestion. Internal documents, the FTC says, suggest the throttling was done to "reduce the high costs associated" with proving unlimited data. In September 2013, TracFone began making some disclosures about throttling unlimited plans. □

Bailout Battle: Greece, EU creditors gear up for clash

DEREK GATOPOULOS
NICHOLAS PAPHITIS
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece's new radical left government has shot the first salvo in what is expected to be a tough clash with fellow eurozone countries over budget cuts that Athens says are choking the life out of its economy. The government of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said Wednesday it would ignore key budget commitments,

around 10.5 percent, while the 3-year yield hit 16.7 percent. The Standard & Poor's credit rating agency warned it could downgrade Greece if talks with its creditors stall. Tsipras' radical Syriza party won general elections over the weekend on a pledge to scrap the some austerity budget cuts, tax hikes and reforms that had been promised. The measures were meant to reduce debt, but had devastating

cabinet meeting. As Tsipras' ministers took up their positions Wednesday, they announced they were abandoning several commitments: the privatization of Greece's power utility, a refinery, the country's two biggest ports and several airports would be scrapped, and the minimum wage would be restored to pre-crisis levels. Despite the rise in tensions over Greece's future under Tsipras, market turmoil



Greece's Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, second right, accompanied by members of his government poses for a group picture outside the Parliament in central Athens, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015. Tsipras says his government's top priorities are to negotiate with Greece's partners to resolve the country's financial predicament and to deal with what he describes as Greece's humanitarian crisis.

(AP Photo/Leferis Pitarakis)

privatizations and reforms previous administrations had promised in exchange for rescue loans from fellow eurozone countries. The hard line prompted a quick warning from the European Union and sent local investors into a panic on the prospect that the country might get cut off from its financial lifeline. Shares on the Athens Stock Exchange tumbled more than 9 percent, with the country's four main banks losing over a quarter of their value. Government bond yields spiked, particularly for short-dated debt, an indication investors are more worried about a default in the short term. The rate on 10-year bonds spiked to

side-effects for the economy, causing a years-long economic depression and spike in unemployment to over 25 percent. The party also wants to cancel billions of euros (dollars) in repayments, something eurozone creditor nations have ruled out. Tsipras on Wednesday said the Greek economy was too weak to provide "crushing and unobtainable" budget surpluses demanded by the rescue lenders, which also includes the International Monetary Fund. "Our first duty is to help those on the verge of despair — who do not have the basics like food, heating, and medical care," Tsipras said in a televised address at his inaugural

has been largely confined to Greece. That's an indication investors think big financial trouble in Greece — such as a default — will not destabilize other eurozone countries. The currency bloc has in recent years built safeguards to reassure investors against the possibility the eurozone might break up. For Greece, however, Wednesday's market rout is ominous. "The first comments by the new government have prompted investors to think twice about whether they want to have their money in Greece right now," said Nick Malkoutzis, head analyst at MacroPolis, an Athens-based market and political review.

Tiger fight: China, Alibaba facing off over fake goods

JOE McDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — There's a tiger fight going on in China. Regulators on Wednesday issued a scathing report against one of the country's biggest stars, accusing e-commerce giant Alibaba of failing to do enough to prevent fake goods from being sold on its websites. Uncowed, Alibaba fired back with charges of bias and misconduct by a named Chinese official. Such public defiance is almost unheard of in China. Even more dubious is the timing of the sternly worded report. The State Administration of Industry and Commerce wrote the report in July after meeting with Alibaba management, but postponed issuing it to avoid affecting the company's New York stock market listing. Alibaba disclosed the issue of counterfeit goods as a risk factor in its prospectus — but didn't reveal any investigation by regulators before raising \$25 billion in its September IPO. The controversy dragged Alibaba's U.S.-traded shares down about 4 percent to \$98.45 on Wednesday. It also threatens to cause headaches for Yahoo Inc., which holds a 15 percent stake in the Chinese company. Today's downturn shaved more than \$1 billion from the value of Yahoo's stake just hours after the California company said it would spin off Alibaba shares later this year. "If the spinoff was going to occur at the end of this month, there would be nothing to worry about," says Rosenblatt Securities analyst Martin Pyykkonen. "But if Alibaba's stock is down by 20 percent six months now, then there could be problems." Alibaba's issues with counterfeit goods are documented. Alibaba.com and Taobao were named in the U.S.'s "notorious markets" report each year from 2008 to 2011, though both market-

places have since been removed from the list. But Wednesday's report was the first time China has criticized one of its own, particularly a leading star in an Internet industry that communist leaders are eager to develop. The report seems to be about "putting Jack Ma in his place," says Gil Luria of Wedbush Securities. SAIC has emerged as an aggressive regulator of business in China. It has pursued allegations of corruption and has pressed antitrust investigations against foreign companies including Microsoft and Chrysler. Foreign firms have complained of unfair treatment. "Maybe SAIC is making the point that it can go after domestic companies as well as foreign companies," says Nicholas Lardy, a China specialist at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. "What better to do than criticize somebody at the top of the food chain?" SAIC said Alibaba allowed "illegal advertising" that misled consumers with false claims about low prices and other details. It claims some Alibaba employees took bribes and the company failed to deal effectively with fraud. The report said regulators and Alibaba would work together to improve management but gave no details of planned changes. Alibaba swiftly accused the SAIC official in charge of Internet monitoring, Liu Hongliang, of unspecified "procedural misconduct" and warned it will file a formal complaint. Alibaba, founded in 1999 by Jack Ma, a former English teacher, was one of China's earliest Internet companies. Its IPO made Ma China's richest entrepreneur with a net worth of \$25 billion. Alibaba so far has enjoyed unusual freedom from government control.

Continued on page 27

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Islamic State releases new audio message by Japanese hostage

BEIRUT (AP) — The Islamic State group released a message late Wednesday purportedly by Japanese hostage Kenji Goto, extending the deadline for Jordan's release of an Iraqi would-be hotel bomber linked to al-Qaida. Earlier in the day, Jordan had offered a precedent-setting prisoner swap to the Islamic State group in a desperate attempt to save a Jordanian air force pilot the militants purportedly threatened to kill, along with a Goto.

The audio recording, in English, says the Jordanians must present Sajida al-Rishawi at the Turkish border by sunset Thursday, or Jordanian pilot Mu'as al-Kasasebeh will be killed.

The Associated Press could not independently verify the contents of the recording which was distributed on Twitter by IS-affiliated accounts.

On Wednesday, the pilot's father met with Jordan's king who he said assured him that "everything will be fine."

King Abdullah II faces growing domestic pressure to bring the pilot home. However, meeting the Islamic State's demand for the release of a would-be hotel bomber linked to al-Qaida would run counter to the kingdom's hardline approach to the extremists.

Efforts to release al-Kasasebeh and Goto gained urgency with the release late Tuesday of a purported on-line ultimatum claiming the Islamic State group would kill both hostages within 24 hours if the al-Qaida-linked



Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Yasuhide Nakayama arrives to speak to the media in front of the Japanese Embassy in Amman, Jordan, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015. Nakayama is coordinating the hostage-release efforts with Jordan of freelance journalist Kenji Goto, held by the Islamic State group.

(AP Photo/Raad Adayleh)

prisoner was not freed. The scope of a possible swap and of the Islamic State group's demands also remained unclear. Jordanian government

spokesman Mohammed al-Momani said Jordan is ready to trade the prisoner, an Iraqi woman convicted of involvement in deadly Amman hotel bombings in

2005, for the pilot. Al-Momani made no mention of Goto.

Any exchange would set a precedent for negotiating with the Islamic State mili-

itants, who in the past have not publicly demanded prisoner releases. Jordan's main ally, the United States, opposes negotiations with extremists.

The release of al-Rishawi, the al-Qaida-linked prisoner, would also be a propaganda coup for the militants who have already overrun large parts of neighboring Syria and Iraq. Jordan is part of a U.S.-led military alliance that has carried out airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Syria and Iraq in recent months.

Participation in the alliance is unpopular in Jordan, and the capture of the pilot has only exacerbated such sentiments, analysts said.

"Public opinion in Jordan is putting huge pressure on the government to negotiate with the Islamic State group," said Marwan Shehadeh, a scholar with ties to ultra-conservative Islamic groups in Jordan. □

Libya hotel attack signals reach of Islamic State

ESAM MOHAMED
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Militants loyal to the Islamic State group on Wednesday claimed responsibility for a deadly and complex attack on a hotel in Libya's capital Tripoli, signaling an expansion of the jihadi group's reach in the chaotic North African state while raising questions about the extent of coordination with leaders in Syria and Iraq. The attack on the Corinthia hotel on Tuesday, in which gunmen burst into the lobby and set off a car bomb in the parking lot, left 10 people dead, including an

American and four other foreigners. An affiliate of the Islamic State claimed the attack and released photos of two suicide bombers it said took part in the assault.

Libya is increasingly taking on the appearance of a failed state, with its elected government forced to reside in the far eastern part of the country while a loose alliance of militias have set up a rival government in Tripoli. Fighting rages between government forces and Islamic militias in the second largest city of Benghazi. Hundreds of thousands have been dis-

placed, embassies have been closed and diplomats have fled the country along with hundreds of thousands of foreign laborers. The chaos following the overthrow of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in a 2011 uprising has proven fertile ground for the rise of Islamic extremist groups, including a number that have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, which controls a third of both Iraq and Syria and has encouraged attacks worldwide. According to postings on jihadi web forums, groups claiming allegiance to the Islamic State are present in

at least five Libyan cities, including the two biggest — Tripoli and the eastern city of Benghazi, the birthplace of the 2011 uprising.

Islamic State supporters divide the vast, oil-rich country of six million people into three regions, or "wilayat": Tripoli, Barqa or Cyrenaica in the east, and Fazzan in the south.

The east is already home to Ansar al-Shariah, an al-Qaida-inspired group suspected of involvement in the deadly assault on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi in 2012 that killed the ambassador and three other Americans. □

Venezuela's Cabello moves away from defecting bodyguard

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — The powerful head of Venezuela's congress moved Wednesday to distance himself from a bodyguard who defected to the United States and reportedly has implicated his former boss as head of drug ring of political and military officials. National Assembly chief Di-

osdado Cabello, who has denied the drug allegation, told Blu Radio of Colombia that former bodyguard Leamsy Salazar was never his head of security, as had been reported. He acknowledged that Salazar worked for him, but added, "They want the world to understand that he was the person closest to me. It's a lie, a lie." The newspapers ABC of

Spain and the Miami-based El Nuevo Herald reported this week that Salazar had gone to the U.S. and was cooperating in a prosecution that would name Cabello as head of a drug ring. President Nicolas Maduro called the episode part of an imperialist plot, and loyalist Venezuelan Congressman Pedro Carreno, speaking on behalf of the

governing party, called the accusations "a new action by the reactionary right" aimed at overturning socialism in Venezuela. Carreno said Tuesday that Salazar "deserted from the armed forces in December and appeared in the United States as a protected witness to defame, slander and submit (Cabello) to public ridicule." Cabello added that he

began to suspect Salazar last June, when the bodyguard began avoiding looking him in the face, though it wasn't until December that he deserted "to hand over his dignity to North American imperialism." Cabello is the second-most-powerful figure in Venezuela's ruling party, after President Nicolas Maduro. □

Aide says Argentine prosecutor didn't trust security detail

DEBORA REY
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The man who gave prosecutor Alberto Nisman the pistol that killed him said Wednesday that Nisman feared for the safety of his daughters and didn't trust the policemen protecting him. Diego Lagomarsino said at a news conference that Nisman borrowed the gun Jan. 17, the day before he was found dead with Lagomarsino's gun by his side. The prosecutor was scheduled to appear before congress the next day to detail his allegations that President Cristina Fernandez conspired to protect some of the Iranian suspects in the 1994 bombing of a Jewish center. Lagomarsino, a computer specialist and long-time acquaintance of Nisman, said he had asked Nisman why he wanted the gun. He said Nisman told him it was to protect his daughters. Lagomarsino said he reminded the prosecutor

that he had police protection, and Nisman responded: "I don't even trust my security detail." Lagomarsino said he

back to you," he said Nisman told him. A private wake was being held for Nisman at a funeral home Wednesday night,

Nisman's accusations of a cover-up, arguing that Argentina had nothing to gain from such a deal with the Middle Eastern coun-

been murdered and has urged prosecutors to investigate Lagomarsino, whom she described as a "fierce opponent of the government." Lagomarsino has been charged with illegally transferring a firearm, but has never been named as a suspect in the killing. Viviana Fein, the lead investigator in the case, said Wednesday there was no indication that Lagomarsino was responsible. Meanwhile, presidential spokesman Anibal Fernandez again focused on Lagomarsino, suggesting he had carried out "intelligence services" during protests in 2004 after a nightclub fire killed 194 people. He said Lagomarsino was seen taking pictures of people, but did not say for which agency he might have been working. During the news conference, Lagomarsino's lawyer rejected the allegations, saying Lagomarsino was not an agent but did enjoy taking photographs. □



A man wearing an Argentine flag holds a sign that reads in Spanish "Cristina Fernandez, corrupt, assassin, resign now!" near the funeral home where a private wake is held for prosecutor Alberto Nisman in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015.
(AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

showed Nisman how to load and unload the pistol, and the prosecutor assured him he would not use it. "In a few weeks, I'll give it

and the family planned the burial for Thursday. Iran has repeatedly denied involvement in the Jewish center bombing, and Fernandez has also rejected

try. Prosecutors are trying to determine if Nisman committed suicide or was killed. Fernandez has suggested he could have

Petrobras releases profit drop in 3rd quarter 2014

STAN LEHMAN
Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazil's scandal-plagued state-run oil company Wednesday released its third quarter report for 2014, showing that profits dropped 9 percent compared to the same period in 2013. Petrobras' quarterly results were released two months late amid ongoing investigations into a massive corruption scandal. Third quarter profits totaled

3.1 billion reais (\$1.2 billion), down 38 percent from those posted in the second quarter of 2014. In a letter to investors and shareholders, chief executive Maria das Gracas Foster said corruption-related payments were wrongly recorded in the past as legitimate costs. She said it would be "impractical to quantify these values, given that the payments were made by outside suppliers and cannot

be traced to the company's accounting books." Authorities allege that top officials from Petrobras and executives from some 15 of the Brazil's biggest construction firms operated a kickback scheme on contracts worth upward of \$4 billion, with money from the inflated contracts eventually being fed back to the governing Workers' Party and other parties for political campaigns. The scheme is one of Brazil's

biggest corruption scandals yet uncovered, with authorizes saying they'll seek the return of nearly \$400 million from those charged. "The poor results of the third quarter and the substantial drop in profits during the period indicate that Petrobras and the construction companies allegedly involved in the scandal will probably sharply reduce their investments," Alessandra Ribeiro, of Sao Paulo's Tendencias Consultancy

Firm, said by phone. She said that Petrobras and the construction companies jointly represent 5 percent of Brazil's gross domestic product. "If Petrobras and the construction companies reduce their investment by 10 percent, GDP will drop by at least one percentage point," she said. "This is where the danger lies and this is what the third quarter results appear to be pointing to." □



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Rights groups doubt Mexico account on missing students

E. EDUARDO CASTILLO
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — International human rights groups on Wednesday questioned the Mexican government's official account of the disappearance of 43 college students last fall in the southern state of Guerrero.

Hours after parents of the missing young men rejected the attorney general's declaration that investigators were sure the students were dead, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International supported the families' demand that the investigation remain open. Attorney General Jesus Murillo Karam reassured Mexicans that the case had not been closed. He said a news conference he gave Tuesday was intended only to update the country on evidence he considers sufficient to conclude the students were killed and their bodies incinerated beyond recognition.

That evidence included a number of forensic reports and purported confessions from suspected drug gang members believed to have killed the students after local police handed them over to the group.

But relatives and rights advocates remained skeptical, saying there are still unanswered questions.

"Given the high indices of violence and corruption in Mexico, unfortunately Murillo Karam's account is not implausible," Human Rights Watch's Americas director, Jose Miguel Vivanco, told MVS Radio. "However, it is difficult to trust what he said ... because you know that in Mexico confessions are obtained through coercion, torture, irregularities, pressures."



A relative holds a picture of one of the missing students in front of a banner with the photos of the missing during a press conference by family members of the disappeared students, in Mexico, City. Mexican attorney general Jesus Murillo Karam said that investigators are now certain that 43 college students missing since September were killed and incinerated after they were seized by police in southern Guerrero state.

(AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)

DNA testing has been able to identify the remains of only one student who disappeared Sept. 26 in the city of Iguala, and an Austrian laboratory assisting in

the case says it appears other human remains discovered in the area cannot be conclusively identified. Vivanco said the government appears eager

to "end media attention surrounding the investigation" by taking the one positive identification and suspects' testimonies and extrapolating to conclude

the other students met the same fate.

According to the Attorney General's Office, the students were killed and heaped onto a garbage-dump pyre that burned for hours at a temperature sufficient to turn the bodies to ash. The remains were then bagged up and tossed into a river. Investigators later found sacks there containing human remains and traces of the dump.

Amnesty International said in a statement that declaring the 43 dead was premature.

"The theory about what may have happened ... is based above all on testimony from implicated persons," the group said.

That echoed complaints made Tuesday night by parents, who vowed to keep demanding the students be found alive.

"A criminal's word cannot be worth more than ours," said Carmen Cruz, mother of missing 19-year-old Jorge Cruz.

"We don't believe anything" the government says, she added. □

Mexico Officials:

Captured drug lord 'Chapo' Guzman to stay put

MARIA VERZA
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Captured Sinaloa drug cartel leader Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman will not be extradited to the United States anytime soon, Mexico's top prosecutor said this week. Attorney General Jesus Murillo Karam said he was expecting to receive a formal request later in the day from Washington, which also wants to prosecute Guzman on drug trafficking charges. But U.S. authorities

will have a long wait.

"I could accept extradition, but at the time that I choose. 'El Chapo' must stay here to complete his sentence, and then I will extradite him," Murillo Karam told The Associated Press in an interview. "So about 300 or 400 years later — it will be a while."

Murillo Karam later clarified that he was referring to the time that it would take for Guzman to complete his sentences, "given all the crimes he's being prosecuted for."

Guzman was arrested by Mexican marines last February in the Pacific Coast tourist resort of Mazatlan, ending years on the run as Mexico's most wanted man after a daring prison break in 2001.

He is being held at a maximum-security prison near the capital.

Murillo Karam said sending Guzman to the United States would save Mexico a lot of money, but keeping him here is a question

of national sovereignty.

He also dismissed concerns that Guzman could escape a second time. That risk "does not exist," Murillo Karam said.

U.S. congressional leaders have called for Guzman's extradition, but a formal request had not been made. At least seven U.S. federal courts have pending complaints against Guzman accusing him of masterminding operations that smuggled drugs into the country. □

Jamaica saw 16% drop in homicide during last year

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— Jamaica saw double-digit decreases in every crime category last year, including a 16 percent drop in homicides, the island's national security minister announced this week.

In a speech to Jamaica's parliament, Peter Bunting said the 1,005 slayings recorded last year was Jamaica's lowest annual total since 2003 and represents a 40 percent reduction over the previous five years. Aggravated assaults went down by 17 percent and rape by 23 percent. Bunting touted it as a "breakthrough year in the fight against crime."

While credit for the decline goes to a number of factors, he partly attributed the success to changing the paradigm of policing in Jamaica. A community policing approach with officers working to develop trust in neighborhoods is gradually starting to replace a paramilitary style of law enforcement that has dominated for 30 years.

He also praised the Jamaica Constabulary Force with a 54 percent drop in police fatal shootings to give it the fewest deaths at the hands of law enforcement in years. The significant reduction — from just over 100 last year compared to 258 slain in 2013 — has drawn cautious praise from human rights activists.

Bunting attributed that big reduction to "greater attention to the appropriate use of force." However, an increasingly robust independent agency that probes abuse allegations against security forces last year launched high-profile investigations against officers accused of murder, leading many to believe a new-found fear of prosecution was largely behind the drop in fatal shootings. Jamaica's overall success comes amid a trend of declining violent crime rates across the Caribbean.

Raul Castro:

US must return Guantanamo for normal relations

J. CORDOBA

M. WEISSENSTEIN

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — Cuban President Raul Castro demanded on Wednesday that the United States return the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, lift the half-century trade embargo on Cuba and

this diplomatic rapprochement wouldn't make any sense."

Castro and U.S. President Barack Obama announced on Dec. 17 that they would move toward renewing full diplomatic relations by reopening embassies in each other's countries. The two govern-

increase the number of Cubans who don't depend on the communist state for their livelihoods.

The Obama administration says removing barriers to U.S. travel, remittances and exports to Cuba is a tactical change that supports the United States' unaltered goal of reform-

a set of longstanding demands that include an end to U.S. support for Cuban dissidents and Cuba's removal from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism. On Wednesday, Castro emphasized an even broader list of Cuban demands, saying that while diplomatic ties may be re-established, normal relations with the U.S. depend on a series of concessions that appear highly unlikely in the near future.

The U.S. established the military base in 1903, and the current Cuban government has been demanding the land's return since the 1959 revolution that brought it to power. Cuba also wants the U.S. to pay hundreds of millions of dollars in damages for losses caused by the embargo.

"The re-establishment of diplomatic relations is the start of a process of normalizing bilateral relations, but this will not be possible while the blockade still exists, while they don't give back the territory illegally occupied by the Guantanamo naval base," Castro said.

He demanded that the U.S. end the transmission of anti-Castro radio and television broadcasts and deliver "just compensation to our people for the human and economic damage that they're suffered."

The U.S. State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Castro's remarks.



Cuba's President Raul Castro listens on a headphone during the summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States in San Antonio de Belen, Costa Rica, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015. Castro demanded that the United States return the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, lift the half-century trade embargo on Cuba and compensate his country for damages before the two nations re-establish normal relations.

(AP Photo/Roberto Carlos Sanchez)

compensate his country for damages before the two nations re-establish normal relations.

Castro told a summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States that Cuba and the U.S. are working toward full diplomatic relations but "if these problems aren't resolved,

ments held negotiations in Havana last week to discuss both the reopening of embassies and the broader agenda of re-establishing normal relations.

Obama has loosened the trade embargo with a range of measures designed to increase economic ties with Cuba and

ing Cuba's single-party political system and centrally planned economy.

Cuba has said it welcomes the measures but has no intention of changing its system. Without establishing specific conditions, Castro's government has increasingly linked the negotiations with the U.S. to

Jamaica wind farm plan gets \$63 million boost

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— A nearly \$63 million financing package was announced Monday to create a wind farm to help Jamaica offset its high power costs and near total dependence on imported fuel.

The new wind farm could provide up to 36 megawatts of power to Jamaica's sole electrical utility after it begins operations

next year, according to the International Finance Corporation, a branch of the World Bank.

"With this project, we hope to demonstrate the viability of the renewable energy sector and open the door to future renewable energy projects," IFC Caribbean manager Jun Zhang said in a statement Monday.

The announcement came as Caribbean leaders converged Monday in Wash-

ington for a U.S.-led summit aimed at helping them convert diesel-powered plants to cleaner natural gas and increase use from renewable resources such as the wind and sun plentiful across the islands.

Renewables make up about 6 percent now of the electricity distributed by the Jamaica Public Service Company, the island's sole power utility. With mostly

diesel-fueled power generation, consumers in Jamaica pay some 42 cents per kilowatt hour, often as much as four times more than power on the U.S. mainland.

Most of the financing for the 36-megawatt BMR Jamaica Wind Ltd. project in Jamaica's St. Elizabeth parish will come from a loan from the U.S. government's Overseas Private Investment Corp.



Aruba recognized as great example for the Caribbean: US Vice President Spotlights Aruba's PM at Energy Summit

Continued from Front

The audience showed great interest in Aruba's commitment to become 100% sustainable by 2020 and the clear path that has been set to achieve this bold ambition.

There are only few countries in the world that have publicly made this 2020 commitment, and Aruba's aspirations are not just to be the first country to do so, but to set an example for other small and large countries to follow.

PM Eman was very clear to the audience that it is difficult for governments to do this alone, "We



direct result of inviting the private sector to be part of investment opportunities that for governments sometimes are very hard to finance.

"It is possible, Mr. Vice President, I believe in a phrase very well known to you 'Yes we can' and in Aruba I believe that we and the other Caribbean nations can adopt the energy and the optimism that you have demonstrated today to move forward, and we can do it," closed Prime Minister Mike Eman.

During the eloquent speech of Vice President Biden, where he spoke on behalf of US President Barack Obama's commit-



have opened the market for private investment in Aruba in the conversion from our conventional energy systems, which we were spending so much of our well hard earned dollars that we could invest in the education of our children and better public health for our citizens. It is because we set out a goal that we want to have a better quality of life for



our citizens and we encompassed within the bigger vision our sustainable energy goals and opening the private sector to these investments made it possible, the things that government couldn't do, were suddenly possible."

Aruba has created Public Private Partnership (PPP) to develop projects, including large windmill farms, solar parks, and one of the most modern waste-to-energy plants in Aruba, as a

ment to the Caribbean, he mentioned Aruba in a very positive light and complimented Aruba's direction by telling the audience of Caribbean leaders and renewable energy stakeholders, that Aruba is a country showing demonstrable progress that has been achieved by uniting government, utilities and businesses behind a common strategy and comprehensive action plan. □

De Palm Island Introduces Power Snorkel

BALASHI - De Palm Island has long been one of the best places to snorkel in Aruba and now with the introduction of Power Snorkeling the experience is enhanced to a whole new level. The Power Snorkel allows guests to float and maneuver effortlessly through the water with a sea scooter which is held by hand in front of you and pulls you through the water.

Benefits are that you don't have to use your legs for swimming and you can cover a larger snorkel area allowing you spend all your time enjoying the reef and fish. The sea scooter delivers speed of up to 2.5 mph and is light enough to carry in one hand.

The coral reef at De Palm Island is one of Aruba's most spectacular snorkel sites and well known for its many Blue Parrotfish. Power Snorkel Guided Tours are organized daily (except Sundays) in the morning and afternoon so make sure to sign up the moment you book your entrance or after arrival on De Palm Island.

Power Snorkel can be booked as an additional



activity to De Palm Island, Aruba's only all-inclusive destination at an affordable all-inclusive price. Whether you are a family looking for a day of fun and adventure together or a couple seeking to escape the hustle and bustle of the busy beach area for some relaxation and pampering, this island offers something for everyone! Just bring your towel, swimwear and camera and enjoy.

A day at De Palm Island includes alcoholic and



non-alcoholic beverages, breakfast and lunch buffet, beaches and beach chairs, palapas, unlimited banana boat rides, a waterpark, snorkeling and much more.

For more details about Power Snorkel visit De Palm Tours Concierge and Activity Desk in your hotel or www.depalmstours.com. T: (+297) 522-4500. □

Support Aramis and friends at the Donkey Sanctuary Aruba!

BRINGAMOS - We would like to introduce Aramis to you, one of the donkeys that has found a home at the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary. We have never seen a donkey that was so easily accepted by the herd as Aramis. Normally it takes quite a while before the herd accepts a newcomer, but with Aramis and his friend Ninja it went without a hitch. We only separated them for one night, but one noticed that the herd was not opposed to this gorgeous, dark grey donkey. So put into the herd, and loving every moment at the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary. Aramis can look forward to staying a long, long time with us, as he is just four years old.

This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip,

just like all the other donkeys. On the chip is information about the donkey and its medical history. The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there: they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers for the sanctuary.

The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities and the sale of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors who wish to adopt a donkey, who buy something at the donkey shop or who make a donation. Thus they help support us. Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which



has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3. Entry is free of charge

and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream. The volunteers of the sanc-

tuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30,- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website www.arubandonkey.org or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it! Would you like to follow the donkeys on Facebook: surf to Donkey Sanctuary Aruba please. □

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Loyal Visitors Honored at the Marriott Surf Club



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very nice couples whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the



Marriott Surf Club as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit



Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Danny and Mrs. Susan Donegan of Waterboro, Maine and Mr. Richard and Mrs. Carol Ciotta of Port Jefferson Station, New York. Both couples are loyal members of the Marriott Surf Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly

people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, relaxation and being on Aruba and staying at the Surf Club is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Jenny Boekhoudt, Mr. John van der Linden and Mr. Joop Bangma GM at the Marriott Surf Club. □

Lupardi Family Honored by Aruba Tourism Authority



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort Beach Resort, as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title

is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Anthony and Mrs. Helen Lupardi from Closter, New Jersey. Anthony and Helen are loyal members

of the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort, and they love Aruba very much, because of the great extremely friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants and Aruba and the Casa Del Mar is like a second home for them. The certificate was presented by Mr. Er-



nest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Nohely Cannegieter and Mr. Bob Curtis GM at the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort. □

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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

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New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady reacts at a news conference in Foxborough, Mass., Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015 as he addresses the issue of the NFL investigation of deflated footballs.

Brady fighting cold, not worried about health for Super Bowl

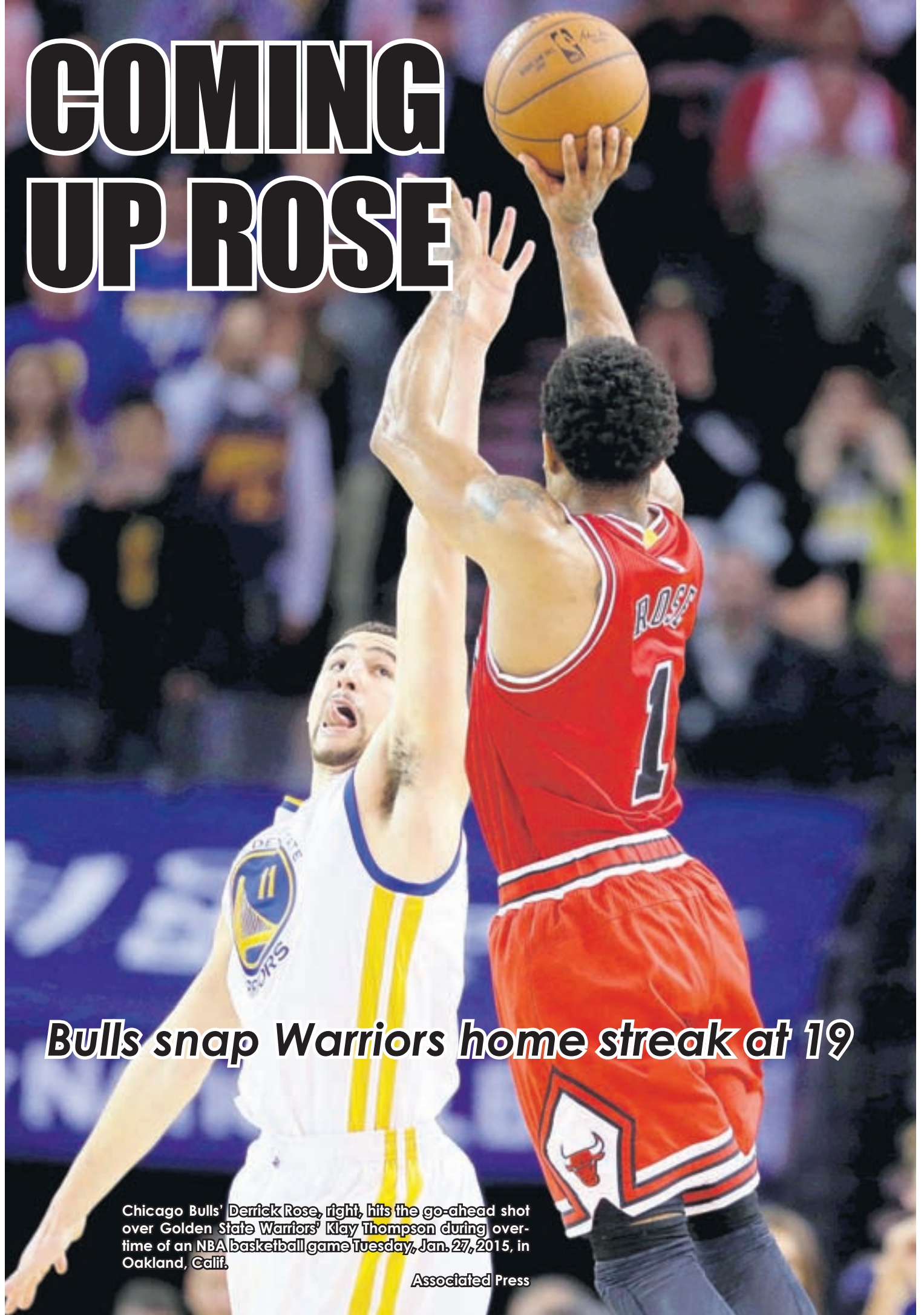
CHANDLER, Arizona (AP) — Tom Brady is dealing with a cold four days before the Super Bowl but says he'll be OK.

The New England Patriots quarterback sounded under the weather during his session with the media on Wednesday. He rubbed the back of his right hand under his nose at one point. He says he's been fighting a cold but "I'll be good." Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman laughed when told the news and said, "his arm doesn't have a cold."

Brady sounded healthier on Tuesday when he was one of the most popular interview subjects during Super Bowl Media Day.

The defending champion Seahawks meet the three-time champion Patriots on Sunday in Glendale. □

COMING UP ROSE



Bulls snap Warriors home streak at 19

Chicago Bulls' Derrick Rose, right, hits the go-ahead shot over Golden State Warriors' Klay Thompson during overtime of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

Djokovic, Keys both loving being in Australian Open semis

DENNIS PASSA

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— It was difficult to tell who was more pleased with reaching the Australian Open semifinals: No. 1-ranked Novak Djokovic, advancing to his 25th at a Grand Slam tournament, or 19-year-old Madison Keys, who beat Venus Williams to get into her first.

Djokovic was simply overpowering as he beat Canadian Milos Raonic 7-6 (5), 6-4, 6-2 in exactly two hours at Rod Laver Arena in a night match on Wednesday, never facing a break point.

The four-time champion, who has dropped his serve only once through five matches, lined up defending champ Stan Wawrinka on Friday.

"I'm a self-critic, but tonight there was not much I could complain about," Djokovic said. "From the first game until the last, I



Madison Keys of the U.S. celebrates after defeating her compatriot Venus Williams in their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015.

Associated Press

played the way I wanted. I feel very good about my game at the moment."

Keys overcame a left thigh injury to beat Venus Williams 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, and will next play a five-time Australian champ also named Williams — top-seeded Serena — on Thursday.

Keys, who said watching the Williams sisters inspired her to take up tennis, talked about the sheer thrill of being in the final four of a major for the first time.

"It's amazing," said Keys, who was coached by three-time major winner Lindsay Davenport. "And I get to enjoy another moment next round."

Serena Williams beat last year's finalist, Dominika Cibulkova, 6-2, 6-2, but she was not 100 percent — she has a cold that made her voice hoarse.

"I've been sick the past few days, and it's just getting worse and worse, but hopefully it will get better," Williams said. "I heard there's a virus going around with a lot of the players, and I caught it."

There had been some hope that the semis might feature an all-Williams matchup at a major for the first time since the 2009 Wimbledon final.

Williams' win didn't bode well for the other three women left — No. 2 Maria Sharapova plays Ekaterina Makarova in the other semi — as in the five past times Williams has advanced to the semis at Melbourne Park, she's won the tournament.

Venus' loss ended an encouraging 10 days for the seven-time Grand Slam singles champion. She hadn't advanced to the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam since the 2010 U.S. Open, and struggled to recapture her form after being diagnosed in 2011 with Sjogren's syndrome, an auto-immune disease that causes fatigue and joint pain.

"It already feels like a long season already, so many matches in a row," said Williams, who won the WTA event in Auckland to open the year. "Hopefully, I'll be able to keep this up."

The other men's match on Wednesday was also a three-setter, but it got interesting at the end. Wawrinka beat U.S. Open finalist Kei Nishikori 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (6), letting slip a 6-1 lead in the third-set tiebreaker and eventually needing six match points to close the victory.

Nishikori made a big error at the wrong time, attempting a drop shot from the back of the court that bundled into the net. That set up another match point for Wawrinka, which he converted with an ace, his 20th of the match.

"Phew, I'm still nervous," Wawrinka said in his post-match interview on court. "It's never easy with his returning. You have to go for it."

Nishikori said he had a difficult day.

"I was struggling with my serve ... I couldn't get good rhythm in the first and second set," Nishikori said. "He was a little bit better today."

Djokovic also looks impressive as he progresses towards a fifth Australian Open title. He won the title here in 2008, his first major, and three years in a row from 2011. With Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal gone from the other side of the draw, his major opposition for another trophy could be Andy Murray, if he beats Tomas Berdych in the other semifinal on Thursday.

One match away from that opportunity, Djokovic was pleased to have added to his Grand Slam semifinal tally that started at the French Open in 2007.

"It never gets old being in the last four of a Grand Slam," Djokovic said.

Williams sisters, Madison Keys picked for U.S. Fed Cup team

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)

— The Williams sisters and teenage Australian Open semifinalist Madison Keys have been chosen for the United States as it seeks to return to the top group in the Fed Cup.

U.S. captain Mary Joe Fernandez announced Wednesday that 18-time major champion Serena Williams and seven-time Grand Slam winner Venus Williams will join Keys and 30th-ranked Varvara Lepchenko on the team that faces Argentina in Buenos Aires on Feb. 7-8.

The 19-year-old Keys upset Venus in the Australian Open to reach her first major semifinal, where she will face top-ranked Serena.

The Americans have fallen out of the Fed Cup's World Group for just the second time since the current format was introduced in 1995. They must beat Argentina then win another series in April to return to



Serena Williams of the U.S. celebrates after defeating Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia in their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015.

Associated Press

the top group next year. Serena Williams last played in the Fed Cup in 2013, the previous time the U.S. needed to win to get back into the World Group.

Former top-ranked junior Taylor Townsend will also join the team in Buenos Aires as a practice partner. Argentina's top player is No. 124 Paula Ormaechea.



NBA Capsules

Rose OT basket gives Bulls victory, ends Warriors streak

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, California (AP) — Derrick Rose hit a step-back jumper with 7 seconds remaining in overtime, and the Chicago Bulls ended Golden State's franchise-record 19-game home winning streak with a thrilling 113-111 victory over the Warriors on Tuesday night.

Rose dribbled to his left and created space to get the shot off over Klay Thompson, skipping around the court after the Warriors called timeout. Rose finished with 30 points, and his final basket overshadowed a night when he committed a career-high 11 turnovers and made just 13 of 33 shots.

Thompson misfired on a running bank shot as time expired to finish off Golden State's first loss at rowdy Oracle Arena in more than two months.

The Warriors forced overtime on Draymond Green's tying tip-in with 1.4 seconds left.

CAVALIERS 103, PISTONS 95 AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)

— Kyrie Irving matched his season high with 38 points and LeBron James added 32 to lift the Cleveland Cavaliers to their seventh straight victory.

The Cavs avenged a 23-point home loss to Detroit late last month. That game was part of a seven-game winning streak for the Pistons, but now Detroit is struggling to overcome the loss of Brandon Jennings, who ruptured his left Achilles tendon last weekend and will miss the rest of the season.

James fell to the floor near the basket during the final seconds of the third quarter and got up grimacing, apparently concerned about at least one of his wrists. He went to the bench, but only briefly. His two-handed breakaway dunk early in the fourth put Cleveland

up 80-68.

BUCKS 109, HEAT 102

MIAMI (AP) — Brandon Knight had 17 points and six assists and the Milwaukee Bucks put seven players in double figures on the way to beating the Miami Heat. Khris Middleton also scored 17 for the Bucks, who got 15 from Jerryd Bayless, 14 from O.J. Mayo, 13 from Giannis Antetokounmpo, 12 from John Henson and 11 from Chris Dudley.

With fighters Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao watching courtside, Milwaukee beat Miami for the third time in as many meetings this season, moving three games clear of the Heat in the race for No. 6 in the Eastern Conference. The Bucks' bench outscored Miami's 44-13.

Chris Bosh had 26 points for Miami. The Heat lost Dwyane Wade in the third quarter with what the team said was a strained right hamstring.

GRIZZLIES 109, MAVERICKS 90

DALLAS (AP) — Zach Randolph had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and the Memphis Grizzlies handed the Dallas Mavericks their first three-game losing streak of the season.

Marc Gasol added 15 points and a game-high six assists for the Grizzlies, who won their fourth straight and eighth in their past nine games a night after finishing a season-long five-game homestand. The only loss in that stretch was to Dallas last week at home. Chandler Parsons and Monta Ellis scored 19 apiece to lead the Mavericks, who failed for the third time to get coach Rick Carlisle his 600th career victory.

WIZARDS 98, LAKERS 92

LOS ANGELES (AP) — John Wall had 21 points, 13 assists and nine rebounds, and the Washington Wizards rallied from a 19-point

deficit to send the Los Angeles Lakers to their ninth straight loss.

Bradley Beal scored 19 points for the Wizards, who won their fifth straight over the Lakers.

Wayne Ellington scored a career-high 28 points and rookie Jordan Clarkson had a career-high 18 for the Lakers, who are on their longest skid since April 1994.

RAPTORS 104, PACERS 91

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — DeMar DeRozan scored 24 points and Kyle Lowry added 19 to lead Toronto to



Chicago Bulls' Derrick Rose dribbles around Golden State Warriors' Klay Thompson during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015, in Oakland, Calif. Chicago won 113-111 in overtime.

Associated Press

the win.

The Atlantic Division-leading Raptors (30-15) overcame a sluggish first quarter to pick up their third straight win. The victory also gave Toronto a franchise

record for most wins before the All-Star break.

Rodney Stuckey scored 22 points and Solomon Hill finished with 15 to lead Indiana (16-31), which has lost eight of nine.

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NHL Capsules

Halak stops 40, Isles beat Rangers again

The Associated Press

UNIONDALE, New York (AP)

— Jaroslav Halak stopped 40 shots, falling 8.1 seconds short of his second consecutive shutout of the New York Rangers, and the Islanders beat their biggest rival 4-1 on Tuesday night in their return from the NHL All-Star break.

New York has won all three meetings this season with the Rangers, taking the first two at Madison Square Garden and outscoring them 13-4 overall. Halak beat them 3-0 on Jan. 13. Henrik Lundqvist was also sharp for the Rangers in making 34 saves.

Mikhail Grabovski returned from injury and scored in the first period, Matt Martin doubled the lead in the second, and Ryan Strome and All-Star John Tavares had goals in the third.

Carl Hagelin spoiled Halak's shutout bid in the closing seconds.

DUCKS 4, CANUCKS 0

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Frederick Andersen made 17 saves in his third career shutout as Anaheim defeated Vancouver.

Matt Beleskey, Kyle Palmieri, Rickard Rakell and Patrick Maroon scored for the Ducks (32-10-6), who sit atop the NHL's overall standings. They have won six straight and eight of nine.

The Ducks are 3-0-1 against the Canucks this season and 9-0-1 over the last 10 versus their Pacific Division rivals.

All three of Andersen's shutouts have come this season.

Ryan Miller stopped 20 shots for Vancouver.

BLUE JACKETS 4, CAPITALS 3

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Cam Atkinson and Fedor Tyutin each had a goal and an assist, and Curtis McElhinney made 25 saves to lead the Blue Jackets to a win over the Capitals.

Mark Letestu and Ryan Johansen also scored, and Nick Foligno, captain of one of the teams in Sun-



Montreal Canadiens goalie Carey Price lies on the ice after taking a hit from Dallas Stars' Alex Goligoski during the third period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015, in Montreal.

Associated Press

day's NHL All-Star game played on the Blue Jackets' home ice, had two assists. Johansen was the All-Star MVP.

McElhinney, starting in place of top goalie Sergei Bobrovsky, who will miss four to six weeks with a groin injury, made several big saves down the stretch. Evgeny Kuznetsov had a goal and an assist, and Andre Burakovsky and Troy Brouwer also scored for the Capitals, who have lost four in a row (0-3-1).

FLYERS 4, COYOTES 3, SO PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Wayne Simmonds scored in regulation and got the winning goal in a shootout to lift the Flyers to a victory over the Coyotes.

After the Flyers missed on their first two shootout attempts, Simmonds beat Mike Smith for the winner.

Connor Murphy, Martin Erat and Tobias Rieder scored for the Coyotes.

R.J. Umberger and Michael Del Zotto also scored for the Flyers.

Steve Mason was sensational in relief for the Flyers and had 22 saves over the final 2 1/2 periods to help them rally from a 2-0 deficit.

PENGUINS 5, JETS 3

PITTSBURGH (AP) — David Perron and Brandon Sutter scored power-play goals less than 4 minutes apart

in the third period and the Penguins rallied for a win over the Jets.

Nick Spaling, Steve Downie and Patric Hornqvist also scored for the Penguins. Kris Letang had a career-high five assists as Pittsburgh ended a four-game losing streak despite playing without injured stars Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin. Thomas Greiss stopped 19 shots.

Adam Lowry, Jacob Trouba and Chris Thorburn scored for the Jets, who saw their five-game winning streak. Ondrej Pavelec made 25

saves but was sloppy in the third period.

HURRICANES 4, LIGHTNING 2

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Eric Staal and Justin Faulk each had a goal and an assist to lift the Hurricanes to a victory over the Lightning.

Nathan Gerbe and Jiri Tlustý also scored and Jordan Staal had two assists to help Carolina win its third straight. The Hurricanes, 7-2-1 in their last 10, snapped the Lightning's three-game winning streak.

Carolina goalie Anton Khudobin finished with 28 saves

for his sixth straight win.

Cedric Paquette and Brian Boyle scored for Tampa Bay.

CANADIENS 3, STARS 2

MONTREAL (AP) — Carey Price stopped 40 saves for his 25th victory of the season as the Canadiens held off the Stars.

Alexei Emelin, Alex Galchenyuk and Brendan Gallagher scored for Montreal. Jamie Benn and Patrick Eaves had the goals for Dallas, which is four points out of the final wild-card spot in the Western Conference. Kari Lehtonen finished with 23 saves.

RED WINGS 5, PANTHERS 4

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Luke Glendening scored twice and Stephen Weiss had a goal and two assists against his former team to lift the Red Wings over the Panthers for their sixth straight victory. The Red Wings have won eight of nine.

They beat the Panthers for the first time in three games this season.

Florida has lost five straight games, including four in a row at home.

Brad Boyes, Nick Bjugstad, Brandon Pirri and Aleksander Barkov scored for the Panthers. Barkov also had a pair of assists.

WADA gets tough on athletes with coaches involved in doping

TOKYO (AP) — Athletes who become involved with coaches who have a previous doping record will be punished by the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Changes to the World Anti-Doping Code take into account that athletes rarely act individually when using banned substances, WADA president Craig Reedie said on Wednesday at a conference WADA held with the pharmaceutical community.

The revised code with a "prohibited association" clause came into force on Jan. 1.

"The issue of entourage

has been picked up in the new version of the World Anti-Doping Code," Reedie said. "In our experience, there are relatively few athletes who deliberately, individually, take doping substances. There is almost always somebody else involved. That's why there are specific conditions in the new code to deal with that. This will be difficult to enforce, but WADA believes that should certainly help."

The tougher codes are in large part a response to allegations of systematic doping in Russia that involved coaches assisting

athletes to obtain banned substances.

The conference was attended by leading organizations in the anti-doping, sport and pharmaceutical industries with the goal of improving information sharing and collaboration to tackle doping in sport and society. "One of WADA's main priorities is to further develop partnerships with pharmaceutical companies," Reedie said.

Last year, WADA signed a deal with leading U.S.-based drugmaker Pfizer to share information about new performance-enhancing substances.

U.S. fades in 3-2 loss at Chile, extends winless streak to 5



U.S. player Mix Diskerud, front right, fights for the ball with Chile's Roberto Gutierrez during a friendly soccer match in Rancagua, Chile, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015.

Associated Press

Marlins announce 1-year deal with OF Ichiro Suzuki



In this Sept. 20, 2014, file photo, New York Yankees' Ichiro Suzuki follows through on a single during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Ichiro Suzuki has passed his physical and finalized a \$2 million, one-year deal with the Miami Marlins.

The Marlins made the announcement Tuesday night.

Suzuki signed the deal in his native Japan. A news conference will be held there for him Thursday, with five Marlins executives present, including president David Samson, president of baseball operations Michael Hill and general manager Dan Jennings.

The 41-year-old Suzuki, a 10-time All-Star and 10-time Gold Glove winner, is expected to be the team's fourth outfielder behind Giancarlo Stanton, Christian Yelich and Marcell Ozuna.

"We are thrilled to have Ichiro Suzuki in a Marlins uniform," Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria said in a statement. "He is the ultimate professional on and off the field, and will make an excellent addition to our ball club." □

The Associated Press

RANCAGUA, Chile (AP) — Mark Gonzalez scored in the 66th and 75 minutes to lead Chile to a 3-2 win over the United States in an international friendly Wednesday that sent the Americans to their first five-game winless streak since 2007.

The 27th-ranked Americans led 2-1 at halftime with goals by Brek Shea in the sixth minute and Jozy Altidore in the 31st either side

of Roberto Gutierrez's 10th-minute equalizer.

With the defeat to Chile, the United States has lost three straight games for the first time since late 2009 and early 2010, and they have one victory in nine matches since beating Ghana in their World Cup opener last June.

Both teams were missing nearly all their Europe-based players because the match was not on a FIFA fixture date. □

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Korda, Lewis, Munoz tied for lead at LPGA season opener

MARK LONG

AP Sports Writer

OCALA, Florida (AP) — Jessica Korda, Stacy Lewis and Azahara Munoz each shot 6-under 66 in the opening round of the LPGA Tour season opener.

All three teed off in windy conditions and finished in chilly temperatures just before dark Wednesday in the Coates Golf Championship.

Korda straightened out an errant driver on the front nine and birdied six of her final 13 holes. Lewis birdied five of her final six holes, including one on an uphill, 6-footer just after the horn blew. Munoz was solid throughout her round and closed with consecutive birdies to make it a three-way tie atop the leaderboard.

Korda pulled a hand warmer out of each jacket pocket, showing just how cold she was during the opening round of the LPGA opener.

"I can't feel my fingers right now," Korda said.

She might be in for more of the same Thursday morn-



Azahara Munoz of Spain watches her ball fly from the 10th tee during the first round of the LPGA Coates Golf Championship at the Golden Ocala Golf and Equestrian Club in Ocala, Fla. on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015.

Associated Press

ing, with temperatures expected to be chilly again for the early tee times.

Twenty players failed to complete the opening round at Golden Ocala Golf & Equestrian Club, which boasts eight tribute holes from famed courses around the world. They will finish up beginning at 7:30 a.m. local time Thursday,

just before Korda, Lewis and Munoz tee off in the second round.

Only 26 of 120 players were under par when play was halted.

American Austin Ernst and Ha Na Jang of South Korea finished at 5 under, one stroke ahead of New Zealand's Lydia Ko and South Korea's Na Yeon Choi.

Nineteen-year-old American Lexi Thompson and Mi Jung Hur of South Korea were 3 under.

Top-ranked Inbee Park was 1 under, one shot ahead of reigning U.S. Women's Open champion Michelle Wie. Cheyenne Woods, the niece of Tiger Woods, was 4 over through 17 holes.

Ernst was maybe the most surprising name on the leaderboard.

She hit 16 of 18 greens in regulation and made just about every putt inside of 10 feet.

"I've had rounds in the past where you've hit it close and then you can't get anything to go in," Ernst said. "But today everything was going in so I was really confident with everything."

Korda, Lewis and Munoz were feeling it, too.

Korda straightened out an errant driver on the front nine and birdied six of her final 13 holes. Considering she's won two of the last three LPGA season openers — in Australia in 2012 and in the Bahamas last year — starting fast is nothing new.

"I just feel like I'm refreshed and ready to go," she said.

"I try and bring the mentality with me all the time, every time I try to play, but for some reason it just shines brighter the first event of the season. Honestly, I don't know what it is about it. I'm just happy to be back. It's so much fun."

It's like the first day of school; you're always happy to be back the first week of school."

Lewis birdied five of her final six holes, the last coming on an uphill, 6-footer just after the horn blew.

Munoz was solid throughout, hitting 17 of 18 greens in regulation, and closed with consecutive birdies to make it a three-way tie at the top.

The only green she missed was at the par-4 13th, her approach shot coming up just a few feet short and rolling off the front.

"I gave myself a lot of opportunities and I made them, too," she said. "If I didn't hit a really good shot, I made a couple nice 5-, 6-footers for par, so that was nice." □



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland tees off on the 11th hole during the second round of the Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Friday, Jan. 16, 2015.

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The familiar environs of the Emirates Golf Club is where Rory McIlroy hopes this week to end a streak of three straight second-place finishes on the

European Tour.

The Desert Dubai Classic is the tournament McIlroy has played the most often, including twice as an amateur. It is also where he notched his first win as

McIlroy tired of finishing runner-up

a pro in 2009, and finished in the top-10 every year since.

"I am disappointed if I don't win, to be honest," he said on Wednesday, the day before the classic starts. "You're not here to try to finish in the top five."

"I'd definitely like to break the runners-up duck the right way than the wrong way."

We'll see. But I'm comfortable on this golf course, and I have good memories here,

and I seem to play the course very well."

McIlroy was runner-up in the World Tour Championship in November, the Alfred Dunhill Championship in December, and the Abu Dhabi Championship two weeks ago in his first start of the year.

To finish the tour's desert swing a winner again, he will have to beat the likes of

world No. 2 Henrik Stenson, No. 5 Sergio Garcia, No. 12 Martin Kaymer, and two-time defending champion Stephen Gallacher, who is a remarkable 55-under par in his last three tournaments on the Majlis course at Emirates.

Then he has a date in a Dublin court next week, as his legal battle with Horizon Sports, his former management company, inches toward a final judgement.

McIlroy said he was trying not to think of the court case until after the tournament.

"To be honest, I've been concentrating on my golf and practice, and that

stuff is much more important to me than what's going to happen next week," he said.

"I will be relieved when this (case) is over. It's not something that I would want anyone to go through. I'm going to be heading to the States regardless,

with it off my mind and not having to deal with it or think about it anymore."

The classic also marks the first start of the year for Europe Ryder Cup stars Lee Westwood and Graeme McDowell. Ernie Els, a three-time classic winner, and holder of the course record of 11-under par 61, is also entered. □



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After setting iPhone record, what does Apple do next?

BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Apple CEO Tim Cook says consumer demand for new iPhones has been "staggering" and "hard to comprehend." That helped the company report record-smashing earnings for its latest quarter and sent the stock climbing more than 7 percent on Wednesday.

But after selling a record 74.5 million iPhones in three months that ended in December, what can Apple do next?

While several analysts have raised their estimates for Apple, some still worry the company depends too much on the iPhone, which contributes two-thirds of its sizable revenue — leaving Apple vulnerable if another gadget comes along to replace the iPhone in popularity. Cook and Chief Financial Officer Luca Maestri, however, say they're optimistic about other products in Apple's portfolio. Here's some of what they talked about on Tuesday.

APPLE WATCH

Apple plans to start selling its highly anticipated smart-watch in April, Cook told analysts on a conference call after the company's earnings report Tuesday. He added that developers are working on new apps called "Glances" — apparently in



In this Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015 photo, shoppers walk by the Apple Store along the the Third Street Promenade in Santa Monica, Calif. Apple Inc. reports quarterly financial results on Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015. Associated Press

reference to the way people will view those apps on their wrists.

Cook boasted he's already wearing and enjoying an early model. "I'm using it every day and love it and can't live without it," he said. Still, some analysts say it's difficult to predict demand for the Apple Watch. "We continue to believe interest from consumers is tepid," said Piper Jaffray's Gene Munster in a recent note to investors.

APPLE PAY

Apple introduced its digital payments service last fall, but Cook vowed Tuesday

that "2015 will be the year of Apple Pay." He said 750 banks have signed up for the program, which now accounts for two out of every three dollars spent through so-called "contactless" payment systems, as opposed to credit cards that are swiped at the point of sale. While Apple is believed to collect fees from banks when shoppers use Apple Pay, it doesn't specifically disclose revenue from the service. BGC Partners analyst Colin Gillis says he doesn't expect the program will make a "material" contribution to Apple's revenue

in the near future.

OTHER DEVICES

Apple said sales of Macintosh computers were up 9 percent in the last quarter. The company increased its share of the personal computer market at a time when overall PC sales were declining. Apple no longer reports separate numbers for its iPod music players. But iPad sales fell 22 percent. Even so, Maestri said surveys show consumers love iPads for web-browsing and shopping, and he said new apps produced in partnership with IBM will increase business uses for the de-

vices. The iPad has "a very bright future," Cook added, although he cautioned he doesn't expect sales trends to change in the next couple of quarters.

NEW MARKETS

Apple says iPhone sales doubled in China, Brazil and Singapore in the last quarter, despite aggressive competition from South Korea's Samsung and the Chinese companies Huawei and Xiaomi. Cook also boasted the company saw record rates of first-time iPhone buyers and former owners of Android phones who are switching to Apple devices, although he didn't provide specifics.

Overall, Apple reported \$74.6 billion in sales and \$18 billion in profit for the December quarter, which represents a year-over-year increase of 30 percent and 38 percent respectively. Based on those numbers, analyst Bill Kreher of the Edward Jones investment firm said he'll be raising his forecasts for the company's performance this year.

Even so, he added, as Apple keeps setting records, "it's certainly going to be more difficult for them to continue to beat expectations."

Apple's stock surged above \$118 on Wednesday, then dropped slightly, after closing the previous day at \$109.14. □

Huge YouTube bulk makes it tough to catch all terror videos

LORNE COOK

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) —

Internet giant Google said Wednesday that the sheer volume of video on its YouTube website makes it tough to catch all terror related content, complicating the struggle to halt the spread of terrorist propaganda and hostage footage. Google Public Policy Manager Verity Harding said that about 300 hours of video material is being uploaded to YouTube every minute.

She told a European Parliament meeting of the ALDE liberal group on a counter-terrorism action

plan that "to pre-screen those videos before they are uploaded would be like screening a phone call before it's made."

The European Union's counter-terror chief believes it's time to help companies to contain the security risk by having experts from member states flagging terror-related content.

"We have to help them, and refer to them, and signal content," Gilles De Kerchove said. "Each member state should have a unit with people trained to do that."

On YouTube, users can highlight problem videos

and have them reviewed by a member of staff.

When a Scotland Yard unit recently told Google about material that did not comply with the company's own guidelines, De Kerchove said 93 percent of that content was removed. But when individuals flag up problems only a third of it is taken down.

Detecting violent, extreme and racist material is a mammoth task. But concerted, targeted warnings from organized groups work best.

"There are community groups and others who do this on a larger scale and they're incredibly helpful



ALDE President Guy Verhofstadt, center, EU Counter-Terrorism chief Gilles de Kerchove, 2nd right, and Public Policy manager of Google Verity Harding attend a meeting of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) on a counter-terrorism action plan, at the European Parliament in Brussels on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015. Associated Press

to us," Harding said. Despite the serious threat posed by extreme and violent videos, neither the big Internet companies nor the European Union appear willing to take on a legal

battle to enforce their removal.

"We can contemplate legislation but I suspect it would be an awfully monumental exercise," De Kerchove said. □

Stocks fade late as oil dips, Fed data puzzles

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

Investors struggled to figure out a barrage of signals from the Federal Reserve, oil markets and Corporate America Wednesday, and stocks fell sharply for second straight day.

The Federal Reserve issued its first policy statement of the year, making clear that it would remain "patient" in raising interest rates from near zero, which was expected. But it also strengthened its assessment of the U.S. economy, noting it is expanding at a solid pace and generating strong job growth.

That's good news for Main Street and Corporate America, but signals that the Fed is moving closer to raising rates, even if it's not contemplating an imminent hike. When interest rates remain low they tend to make stocks more attractive by comparison to bonds.

"The market is, on one hand, happy the Fed is saying things look solid, but it means at some point we will get that first rate hike," said Quincy Krosby, market strategist for Prudential Financial.

Investors were buffeted by other cross currents. Impressive earnings from Apple and Boeing made investors optimistic and lifted stocks early. But when benchmark U.S. oil later sank to its lowest level in nearly six years, investors worried about worsening

earnings prospects for energy companies.

The Energy Department reported that U.S. oil inventories rose to their highest levels ever recorded. Those high supplies drove crude prices to the lowest level since March 2009. Benchmark U.S. crude fell \$1.78 to close at \$44.45 a barrel in New York. As recently as June, it traded above \$100.

Inflation has stayed ultra-low partly because of the plunge in energy prices

came out, knocking the yield to 1.70 percent, the lowest level this year. It edged back up to 1.72 percent late in day, compared with 1.82 percent late Tuesday. The yield on the 30-year bond, meanwhile, touched a record low of 2.27 percent.

"The Fed has a much more beneficial view on the drop in oil than the stock market does," said John Canally, chief economic strategist at LPL Financial.

All told, the Dow Jones in-

0.9 percent, to 4,637.99.

The market had been in a wait-and-see mode in advance of the Fed statement, drifting between small gains and losses for much of the day. Falling oil prices dragged the energy sector lower, while strong earnings from Apple helped lift tech stocks.

The market initially perked up after the Fed issued its statement at 2 p.m. Eastern Time. But the gains were short-lived, and by late afternoon three major



Specialist Michael Shearin, left, and trader Timothy Nick work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015. Investors struggled to figure out a barrage of signals from the Federal Reserve, oil markets and Corporate America Wednesday, and stocks fell sharply for second straight day. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

and a steadily rising dollar. The Fed noted it anticipates inflation will decline further before starting to rise gradually.

Prices for the benchmark 10-year Treasury jumped after the Fed statement

dustrial average dropped 195.84 points, or 1.1 percent, to close at 17,191.37. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 27.39 points, or 1.4 percent, to 2,002.16.

The Nasdaq composite dropped 43.50 points, or

indexes slumped, extending their losses for the year. The Dow is now 4.8 percent below its all-time high of 18,053.71 on Dec. 26. The S&P 500 index is down 4.2 percent from its high of 2,090.57 on Dec. 29. □

The Upshot: We can't blame a few rich folks for all poverty

JUSTIN WOLFERS
© 2015 New York Times

It's a breathtaking statistic: The richest 80 people in the world own as much wealth as the poorest half of the entire planet. It's the centerpiece of Oxfam's latest campaign, timed to coincide with the touching down of several of those billionaires in Davos, Switzerland, for the World Economic Forum last week.

It's also a brilliant talking point because it gives the impression that a happy few are hogging a big chunk of the world's resources.

But don't be misled; this is not what it says at all. A less rhetorically gifted Oxfam staffer might have written instead that the world's richest 80 people own around 0.7 percent of global wealth. That's a lot, but it hardly seems staggering.

Instead, Oxfam's sound bite reflects the fact that 3.5 billion people - most of them in the developing world - have virtually no wealth at all. A newborn baby has more wealth than the world's poorest decile, all of whom are in debt. And none of the world's poorest half hold more than \$3,650 in assets. Yes, the rich are exceedingly well off. And globally, wealth is extremely concentrated. The world's 35 million millionaires collectively hold a huge 44 percent of global wealth. The world's richest 1 percent - including the very richest - hold 48 percent of the globe's wealth. But the world's richest 80 people hold only a tiny sliver of this 48 percent.

The political appeal of focusing public anger on the very richest handful of people is obvious. And it would be great if solving global poverty were simply a question of persuading that small handful to share. Unfortunately, that is not the world we live in. □

Anthem raises dividend 43%, tops 4Q forecasts

TOM MURPHY
AP Business Writer
INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — An-

them has hiked its quarterly cash payout to shareholders by nearly 43 percent to keep up with its rising stock price after edging past Wall Street forecasts for the recently completed fourth quarter.

The nation's second-largest health insurer said Wednesday that it will start offering in March a quarterly dividend of 62.5 cents per share, up from its previous payout of 43.75 cents per share.

That bumps the yield, which

measures annual payouts against the stock price, up to 1.8 percent from 1.3 percent, based on Tuesday's closing price. That's higher than the current yields offered by dividends from Anthem's biggest competitors, UnitedHealth Group Inc. and Aetna Inc., which also have raised their dividends in the past year.

It also tops the average dividend increase of 17.5 percent last year for Standard & Poor's 500 index companies.

Anthem shares advanced 36 percent last year, setting

several new all-time high prices along the way. The price has continued to rise in 2015, topping \$142 earlier this month before settling back a few dollars.

The stock edged up Wednesday morning along with the broader market. Investors have been warming up to health insurance stocks for a few years now after watching the sector weather taxes, fees and other changes brought by the health care overhaul, the massive federal law that aims to cover millions of uninsured people. They now

see much less uncertainty ahead for the industry.

Insurers, in turn, have stoked that interest by fattening their dividends and buying back shares, a practice that can raise the stock price. Neither the dividend increase nor the fourth-quarter performance offered much surprise for investors and analysts on Wednesday. Anthem executives had said last fall that they were considering a dividend hike, and the company's performance fit a forecast it made earlier this month at a conference. □

Sony teams Spotify with PlayStation for music streaming

BEN SISARIO

© 2015 New York Times

For almost five years now, Sony has maintained a presence in the developing world of streaming music, first under the unwieldy name Qriocity (pronounced "curiosity") and then as the more straightforward Music Unlimited.

Soon, Sony's music streaming endeavors will take on a much more familiar name: Spotify.

On Wednesday, the two companies announced that this spring Spotify would effectively replace Music Unlimited as the music streaming outlet for Sony's PlayStation Network,

the gaming, entertainment and media platform that is available through Sony devices. The deal covers 41 countries across North and South America, Asia and Europe. Its status in Japan - where Music Unlimited is one of the few global music streaming services available - "is not

yet determined," according to the announcement. Music Unlimited, which has been available in 19 countries, will close on March 29, and its users will be offered trial access to Spotify's premium version, which normally costs \$10 a month. PlayStation users will also be able to link

their existing Spotify accounts.

The deal is a tacit acknowledgment both of Spotify's rapid growth - it has 60 million users around the world, 12.5 million with paid subscription plans - and of Sony's failure to develop a compelling streaming service. □

Facebook status update: Profit, revenue top expectations

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For the seventh quarter in a row Facebook beat profit and revenue forecasts, continuing to win more mobile advertising revenue as most users shift to using the site on smartphones and other portable devices.

The world's biggest online social network said Wednesday that advertising revenue jumped 53 percent to \$3.59 billion for the fourth quarter — with mobile ad revenue representing 69 percent of the total. That percentage has grown steadily in each quarter of this year.

Facebook's massive user base also expanded. It had 1.39 billion monthly active users at the end of the year, up 13 percent from a year earlier. Daily users totaled 890 million, up 18 percent. Mobile monthly active users jumped 26 percent to 1.19 billion.

"The bigger Facebook gets, it cements its position as one of the most dominant players in digital media, and it has the size and reach to change the rules

of digital advertising and convince others to play by them," said Debra Aho Williamson, an analyst at research firm eMarketer.

Facebook, which turns 11 years old this year, began offering mobile ads in 2012, the year its stock began publicly trading. More recently, Facebook expanded into video ads, which are very lucrative, and last year it re-launched Atlas, a tool for marketers to better target people across devices, platforms and publishers and to measure how well the ads work.

Facebook had a "strong quarter capping off a really great year," Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg said in an interview.

She called 2014 the year Facebook completed the shift to mobile, and said the company will continue to make investments to build its business this year. When it comes to Facebook's ad business, the focus is squarely mobile. Sandberg said that in the U.S., 25 percent of consumers' time spent on various media is spent on mobile — while only about 10 percent of

advertising budgets goes to mobile.

"What that says to me is that we have opportunity for growth," she said.

The company is still a long way from catching up to rival Google Inc. in the

from 2013.

After paying preferred dividends Facebook earned \$696 million, or 25 cents per share, in the October to December quarter, up from \$520 million, or 20 cents per share, in the



This photo shows Facebook's "like" symbol at the entrance to the company's campus in Menlo Park, Calif. For the seventh quarter in a row Facebook beat profit and revenue forecasts, continuing to win more mobile advertising revenue as most users shift to using the site on smartphones and other portable devices, the company announced, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015. (AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

digital advertising market, though. In 2014, Facebook had a nearly 8 percent share of the market compared with Google's 31 percent according to eMarketer. That's an increase for Facebook and a slight decrease for Google

same period a year earlier. Adjusted earnings totaled 54 cents per share. Analysts, on average, were expecting adjusted earnings of 48 cents per share, according to FactSet.

Revenue grew to \$3.85 billion from \$2.59 billion a year

earlier, also topping analysts' \$3.78 billion forecast. Sterne Agee analyst Arvind Bhatia said the company has "made it clear" that it expects revenue growth rates to slow due to tough comparisons to year-ago results, but added that this "should not be a big concern, especially for long-term investors."

Facebook, which owns the popular photo-sharing app Instagram and the messaging service WhatsApp, has launched stand-alone mobile apps of its own, in a move that helps it take up more real estate on people's phones. Besides its Messenger app, though, these apps have seen limited success.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg has promised that Facebook will continue investing in new areas that might not pay off for a long time. This includes its purchase of Oculus, a small company that makes virtual reality goggles, last year. The company's ambitious Internet.org project, meanwhile, aims to connect everyone on Earth to the Internet. □

McDonald's replaces Chief Executive as its sales falter

HIROKO TABUCHI

© 2015 New York Times

McDonald's announced late Wednesday that its chief executive would step down, just days after the fast-food restaurant chain posted one of its worst financial performances in years.

Don Thompson, 51, will retire as president and chief executive, effective March 1, McDonald's said in a statement. He will be replaced by Steve Easter-

brook, the chain's chief branding officer, who will also replace Thompson on the McDonald's board, the statement said.

McDonald's reported a sharp decline in sales and earnings last week, as stiff competition and evolving consumer tastes continued to take a toll on one of America's biggest restaurant brands. It has lost a lot of ground with customers, including being unable to attract millen-

nial consumers who gravitate more toward what are called fast-casual restaurants like Chipotle.

The company said last week that revenue in the quarter through December fell 7 percent, to \$6.6 billion. Earnings dropped 21 percent, to \$1.1 billion from \$1.4 billion in the same period a year ago. McDonald's blamed the company's need to set aside greater reserves for taxes, as well as ongoing

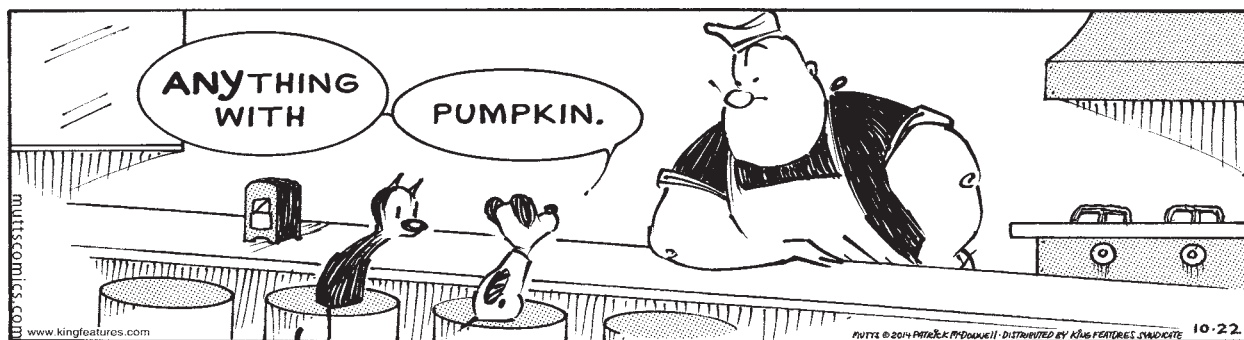
problems with a supplier in China. Thompson, who has been with the company for more than two decades and chief executive since 2012, had warned that he expected the chain to continue to struggle this year.

In a statement, Thompson said: "It's tough to say goodbye to the McFamily, but there is a time and season for everything. I am truly confident as I pass the reins over to

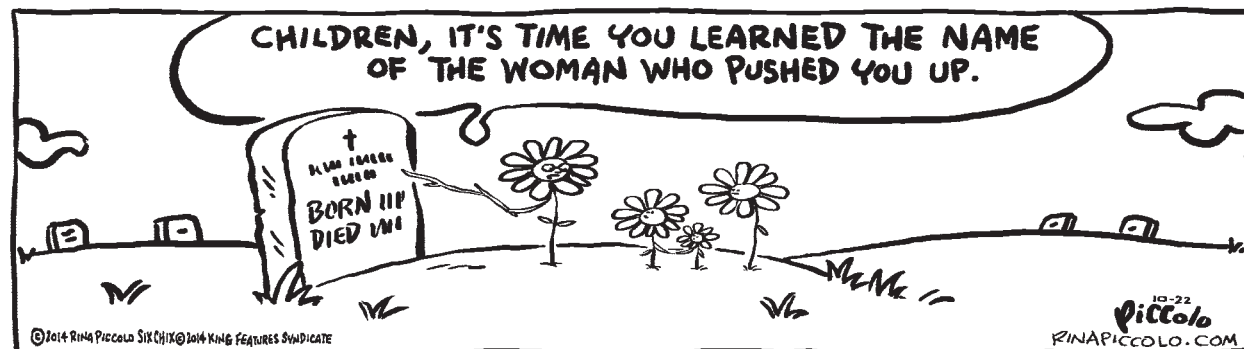
Steve that he will continue to move our business and brand forward."

Andrew McKenna, the company's non-executive chairman, said: "Steve is a strong and experienced executive who successfully led our U.K. and European business units, and the board is confident that he can effectively lead the company to improved financial and operational performance." □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			5	1				
			8		3	2		
		1					6	
	5		6					1
1					8			7
4		6	7	3				2
2	4		9				7	
		9				5		
		8	3	2	7	4	9	

Difficulty Level ★★

10/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	4	2	6	9	3	1	8	5
5	8	9	7	1	4	3	6	2
3	6	1	5	8	2	9	4	7
2	7	5	1	3	6	4	9	8
6	9	3	4	7	8	2	5	1
8	1	4	9	2	5	7	3	6
9	5	6	2	4	7	8	1	3
1	2	8	3	6	9	5	7	4
4	3	7	8	5	1	6	2	9

ACROSS

- Piece of asparagus
- Insincere action
- Goes bad
- Use a pencil's rubber end
- Stack
- Canyon sound
- Most terrible
- Rex or Donna
- pressure; influence from companions
- Indulges freely
- Burning
- Ram or bull
- Less ornate
- Per person
- Fundamental
- Forbid entry to
- Needing no encouragement
- Pine that drops its needles in winter
- Clippety-__
- Way; classic candy bar
- S, M, L or XL
- Mexican mister
- Gets up
- Is able to
- Russian's dollar
- Ocean __; cruise ships
- Fables
- Delight
- in; relenting
- Allen Ludden's TV game show
- Not up yet
- Ibex or angora
- Sioux home
- Yearn
- Qualified
- From the East
- Prescribed amount
- Curved edges
- on; tramples
- Take for granted
- Go back over one's steps
- Spending fling
- Rushes
- Beer's cousin
- Military awards
- Exact copies
- Atlantic or Pacific
- song; TV show's music
- More tender to the touch
- Sparkle
- Blow it
- Grassy areas for recreation
- Basics
- Sickly-looking
- Element whose symbol is Fe
- Misrepresent
- Young ladies
- Part of most Chinese meals
- Leader's title in old Russia
- Uses needle and thread
- up; support
- Actor James Jones

DOWN

- Uses needle and thread
- up; support
- Actor James Jones

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21			22	23			
			24				25					
26	27	28				29						
30			31		32			33	34	35	36	
37		38		39			40		41			
42			43		44			45		46		
			47	48			49		50			
51	52	53				54						
55						56				57	58	59
60				61	62			63				
64				65				66				
67				68				69				

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/22/14

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

EGGS	STALL	UNIV
NOAH	HELLO	NOTE
DAZE	RELAY	BOOR
STERNUM	MASONRY	
BOG	MALES	
EBSEN	WAS	VOCAL
LENT	PEG	FEMALE
AGO	JANITOR	BAA
TAURUS	CUE	TIMS
ENTER	RAG	CANOE
MODEL	RUB	
ADMIRAL	GERALDO	
CRUX	VAGUE	SOON
TILE	ITALL	CAME
SPED	SELLS	ODES

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10/22/14

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 36 Laying birds | 53 Large kitchen appliances |
| 38 Hot cereal | 54 Microsoft's Bill |
| 40 Shouts | 56 Date tree |
| 43 Destroy | 57 Sheriff Andy Taylor's boy |
| 45 Afternoon naps | 58 Gather crops |
| 48 Panhandler | 59 Lairs |
| 50 Most modern | 62 Japanese sash |
| 51 Overcook milk | |
| 52 Forbidden | |

Tiger fight

Continued from page 8

By lashing back at its accusers, it may be testing the limits of its autonomy, notes Nicholas Howson, who practiced law in China and is now a law professor at the University of Michigan.

In its prospectus filed in May, Alibaba said it has received notices in the past and likely will in the future about pirated, counterfeit or illegal items being sold on its online marketplaces by third parties. But there is no mention of any government investigation or impending report in any documents leading up to the IPO.

The report may be the biggest crisis for Alibaba since its founding, says Sam Hamadeh, CEO of IPO research firm PrivCo.

Alibaba would have had to know about the investigation because there would have been extensive requests for evidence documents and negotiations with Alibaba management and attorneys during the drafts of its F1 prospectus, says Hamadeh. If a U.S. company is being investigated by the Justice Department, for example, it would have to disclose that in its annual report. The investigation also would have broadcast that Alibaba wasn't a darling of the Chinese government. "Chinese companies rely on being in one or two categories: blessed and favored by the government or not," says Hamadeh. Disclosing the investigation would have taken the IPO in a different direction, he thinks.

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Drones could play key roles in U.S. food supply

MARY CLARE JALONICK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—Herd- ing cattle. Counting fish. Taking an animal's temper- ature. Applying pesticides. When it comes to drones, "your imagination can go pretty wild in terms of what would be possible," says Roger Johnson, president of the National Farmers Union.

This month, the Federal Aviation Administration is- sued the first permit for ag- ricultural use of unmanned aerial vehicles. Steven Ed- gar, president and CEO of ADAVSO, says his Idaho- based business will use a lightweight, fixed-wing drone to survey fields of crops.

Drone technology, already used in other countries, can make farmers more efficient by helping them locate problem spots in vast fields or ranchlands. Increased efficiency could mean lower costs for con- sumers and less impact on the environment if farm- ers used fewer chemicals because drones showed them exactly where to spray.

The Association for Un- manned Vehicle Systems International, a trade group, says agriculture could account for 80 per- cent of all commercial drone use, once govern- ment regulations allow it. That could be a while. The Federal Aviation Admin-



In this photo taken Jan. 20, 2015 file photo, Lia Reich, director of marketing with PrecisionHawk, holds up their agricultural and insurance drone, the PrecisionHawk Lancaster, after an event with the Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) Coalition, at the National Press Club in Washington.

Associated Press

istration has been work- ing for years on rules that would balance the desire for commercial flights of small drones with the need to prevent collisions involv- ing manned aircraft.

Five ways drones could af- fect the food supply:

SCOUTING FARMS

The first agriculture drones are looking at massive fields of crops to scout out where crops are too wet, too dry, too diseased or too infested with pests. They can help farmers count plants or measure their height. Farmers can now use satellite technol- ogy, but it's slower and less detailed than images from

low-flying drone.

Alabama farmer Don Glenn said he would buy a drone or use a service that provides drone surveil- lance on his farm of corn, wheat, soybeans and canola. It's hard to survey corn fields when they are 8 feet to 10 feet tall, he says. Drones can carry different tools, including high-resolu- tion cameras, infrared sen- sors and thermal sensors. Ground-penetrating radar could even measure soil conditions.

APPLYING CHEMICALS

Once the land is surveyed, farmers could use that data to narrow the areas that need treatment. If a

plot of farmland is infested with weeds, for example, a farmer could spray a small amount of herbicide just in that area, instead of an en- tire field, to kill them. Farm- ers hope that they eventu- ally could use drones to do the spraying.

Kevin Price of the Iowa- based drone company Ro- boFlight Systems says that kind of precision would put farmers at a huge advan- tage, helping them reduce the costs of chemicals and their application.

FINDING FISH

A University of Maryland project is developing drone technology to moni- tor fish in the Chesapeake

Bay. Matt Scassero, the project director, says the idea is that a laser-based sensor mounted on a drone would allow scien- tists to see through the wa- ter and measure the size of a school of fish. Research- ers could ascertain the conditions of the water, too.

Some drones can land on water, making it possible to measure water quality, as well.

REVEALING SECRETS

There are downsides for farmers. Documentary filmmaker Mark Devries has used an unmanned vehicle to fly over large commercial hog opera- tions and film them. He wants consumers to see the buildings full of animals and huge manure pits.

R.J. Karney of the American Farm Bureau Federation says there is a "major con- cern" about those kinds of films and his group intends to work with the Obama administration and Con- gress to address it. He says such films are not only a privacy violation, but can put farmers at a competi- tive disadvantage.

Still, the agriculture indus- try sees the advantages of drones as far outweighing the disadvantages.

"We're concerned about falling behind other coun- tries" as the FAA delays, Karney says. "Farmers are anxious to see where this can go." □

Huntington acquires Louis Pasteur's notes on brewing beer

SAN MARINO, California (AP)—

People interested in what kind of beer the guy who invented pas- teurization kicked back with after work will want to pay a visit to San Marino's Huntington Library.

The Huntington, whose treasures include a First

Folio edition of Shake- speare's plays, an- nounced Tuesday it has acquired French scientist Louis Pasteur's beer-brew- ing notes.

The extensive writings from the 1870s were acquired earlier this month by the Huntington's Library Col-

lectors Council, a group of 37 families who support the Southern California institu- tion by helping buy mate- rials it could not otherwise afford. Also acquired were several unpublished let- ters and poems by family members of Jane Austen, and writings, drawings and

paintings by the 19th cen- tury New England seaman known as Wicked Ned.

Pasteur's notes will be added to the Huntington's already prolific collection of works by the famous French scientist.

Melissa Lo, the Hunting- ton's history curator, said

these papers show Pasteur was not only trying to de- velop a better beer, but also working on concepts he would apply to such scientific breakthroughs as disease-preventing vac- cinations. He developed vaccines for both rabies and anthrax. □

Theater legend Joel Grey reveals that he is gay

NEW YORK (AP) — Joel Grey has publicly announced at age 82 that he is gay.

The Oscar- and Tony-winning actor tells People magazine, "I don't like labels, but if you have to put a label on it, I'm a gay man."

Grey was married to actress Jo Wilder for 24 years and they have two children together: actress Jennifer Grey and son James, a chef. He says, "It took time to embrace that other part of who I always was." Grey's show-stopping performance as the devilish master of ceremonies in "Cabaret" won him an Academy Award and a Tony.

After "Cabaret," Grey went on to star on Broadway in "George M!," the title role in "Goodtime



- In this April 20, 2014 file photo, actor Joel Grey attends the opening night performance of "The Cripple of Inishmaan" in New York.

Associated Press

Charley," Amos Hart in the revival of "Chicago," and the Wonderful Wizard of Oz in "Wicked." □

LA jury awards \$5 million to funk legend Sly Stone

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Funk legend Sly Stone was awarded \$5 million on Tuesday in a breach-of-contract suit that claimed his business partners and his own company cheated him out of royalties.

A Los Angeles Superior Court jury ruled for the 71-year-old performer in his action against his ex-manager Gerald Goldstein, attorney Glenn Stone and Even St. Productions Ltd.

"It's a good day for Sly, it's a good day for entertainers in general," said one of his attorneys, Nicholas Hornberger. "This was an important verdict for people that are artists, entertainers, music composers, etc."

Stone, whose real name is Sylvester Stewart, led the group Sly and the Family Stone to a string of hits in the 1960s and early '70s including "Everyday Peo-

ple," "Dance To The Music" and "Family Affair." But heavy drug use began to take a toll.

His lawyers say Stone's career was long eclipsed and he was destitute when Goldstein and Glenn Stone convinced him to become an employee of and co-owner of Even St. Productions with them in 1989.

Stone assigned royalty rights to the company and was supposed to receive some of the money it collected for him but Goldstein and Glenn Stone arranged to get it through shady accounting, Hornberger argued.

"They met him, they signed him up ... but what they really wanted was his royalties," Hornberger said.

Gregory Bodell, the attorney for Goldstein and Glenn Stone, said the performer approached his clients to revitalize his career and promised to make comeback records that he never recorded.

His clients weren't seeking the performer's royalties because he didn't have any, in part because he owed millions to the Internal Revenue Service, Bodell said.

Sly Stone testified that he had not received any royalty payments between 1989 and 2000.

But Bodell said his clients



This April 1972 file photo shows rock singer Sylvester "Sly" Stone of the music group, Sly and the Family Stone.

Associated Press

helped to pay off the IRS, renegotiated royalty issues with record companies and over 20 years obtained millions of dollars in royalties for the performer — perhaps as much as \$9 million.

Jurors assessed \$2.5 million in damages against Even St. Productions, \$2.45 million against Goldstein and \$50,000 against Glenn Stone.

Bodell said the award will be challenged.

Even St. Productions filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in 2013. A message left for a lawyer representing the company was not immediately returned. □

Lady Gaga, Tony Bennett among duets set for Grammy Awards

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Grammy Awards will feature a number of collaborative performances, including Lady Gaga with Tony Bennett and Adam Levine with Gwen Stefani. The Recording Academy said Tuesday that Annie Lennox will also be paired with newcomer Hozier and Jessie J with Tom Jones at the Feb. 8 show in Los Angeles.

"Throughout the years, the Grammy Awards has paired musical icons with new, upcoming artists to give fans remarkable performances that can only be seen on our stage," Recording Academy President and CEO Neil Portnow said in a statement. "This year is no different and, once again, promises to bring together unique musical worlds in innovative ways that blend genres and create new artistic boundaries."



In this Sept. 22, 2014, file photo, Lady Gaga, right, and Tony Bennett arrive for a media event at the Brussels' city hall.

Associated Press

Gaga and Bennett's duet album, "Cheek to Cheek," is nominated for best traditional pop vocal album, where their competition includes Lennox. Hozier is nominated for song of the year for the hit, "Take Me to Church," while Jessie J is up for best pop duo/group performance for "Bang Bang" with Ariana Grande and Nicki Minaj.

Beyonce, Pharrell and Sam Smith are the Grammy

leaders with six nominations apiece. They will all compete for the top prize, album of the year, along with Ed Sheeran and Beck. Smith, Sheeran and Pharrell also will take the stage. Other performers include AC/DC, Madonna, Grande, Eric Church, Common, John Legend, Miranda Lambert and Usher. The 57th annual Grammy Awards will air live from the Staples Center on CBS. □

Rolling Stone's archive coming to Google Play for free

NEW YORK (AP) — Selections of Rolling Stone magazine's near 50-year archive will be available for free on Google Play. Rolling Stone made the announcement Wednesday. Articles from its archive will be available Friday for Android and iOS phones and tablets. All of its issues will be represented.

Rolling Stone was launched in 1967. The first cover featured a still image from John Lennon's film "How I Won the War."

The magazine has featured a number of top interviews with musicians and celebrities over the last five decades, reviews of albums and songs, and political reporting. □

Diversity at Sundance doesn't carry over to Hollywood

SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) —

One of the most buzzed-about movies at this year's Sundance Film Festival is "Dope," a coming-of-age story about three outcasts in the inner city.

Written and directed by Rick Famuyiwa and featuring a diverse cast of actors, the film spawned a bidding war before domestic and international distributions rights were snapped up late Monday.

But when Famuyiwa and his producing partners, including Forest Whitaker and Pharrell Williams, initially shopped the film around to Hollywood studios, no one bit.

"I don't know if there's a recognition on the part of those who make these decisions that we're living in a world that doesn't look like what's being reflected on screen," Famuyiwa said.

Two years ago, a similar bidding battle broke out over another film that premiered at the festival, "Fruitvale Station," Ryan Coogler's dramatization of the killing of Oscar Grant by police in Oakland, California. A year before that, "Selma" director Ava DuVernay was named best director at Sundance for her debut feature, "Middle of Nowhere," about a woman whose husband is sentenced to eight years in prison.

But while films by and

about black people fare well at the independent festival, that success rarely translates to the Hollywood mainstream. "Whiplash" won the audience and jury awards at Sundance last year, and now it's up for a best-picture Oscar. "Fruitvale Station," however, won the same two prizes at Sundance, but didn't get

good business, Famuyiwa and others said.

"It could be why it's getting harder and harder to get people into the cinemas and multiplexes," Famuyiwa said, "because we're just seeing a world that doesn't reflect reality."

Sacha Jenkins, whose documentary about hip-hop fashion, "Fresh Dressed,"

black or Latino or whatever, it doesn't mean I'm the go-to guy for all things black and Latino," he said. "Folks also need the opportunity to go beyond the box that you expect them to be in."

The chief executives at the five biggest Hollywood studios are white men.

Even with executives in place who are receptive to more diverse stories and storytellers, Hollywood studios still treat such stories as more the exception than rule, Famuyiwa said.

"They're stuck in ... old ways of thinking that the country and many other industries and businesses have already recognized and moved beyond," Famuyiwa said. "I think there's a sense sometimes when studios make these films that they're doing favors or that it's sort of a charity case — we're doing it because it's the right thing to do — but it's just good business at this point."

Diverse voices and stories are an inherent part of an independent festival, said Sundance founder Robert Redford.

"We believe in diversity and freedom of expression is very much fundamental to us," he said. "You see films here that are going to upset other people, but that's OK. We will do everything in our power to keep (diversity) alive here."

The Sundance Institute in-

tentionally seeks voices outside the mainstream with unique stories to tell. And its own research confirms that as the stakes go up — bigger budgets, bigger distributors — diversity goes down.

"The pipeline of young talent interested in telling stories is there, but somewhere along the way, they fall out of the business equation, of getting that work made," said Keri Putnam, executive director of the Sundance Institute. "So as money comes into the equation, diversity — whether it's gender or racial and ethnic diversity — seems to step out."

Multiplex movie going is also an issue, said Shaun Kosta, who released his first film, "The Republic of Two," about a 20-something cohabitating couple facing the challenges of love, over the summer. As multiplexes replace independent theaters and movie going becomes more of an event, both exhibitors and ticket-buyers are less likely to take chances on unproven stories and storytellers.

"It comes down to proximity and what's available," he said.

That's where cinemas may be short-sighted. Famuyiwa cites some of today's popular TV shows: "Orange Is the New Black," "Empire," "How to Get Away With Murder" — all of which feature diverse casts. □



In this Jan. 24, 2015 photo, Shameik Moore, from top left, director Rick Famuyiwa, Quincy Brown, and from bottom left, Chanel Iman and Kiersey Clemons pose for a portrait to promote the film, "Dope", at the Eddie Bauer Adventure House during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Associated Press

any Oscar attention.

Studios will have to start paying attention — not only because of the backlash against the all-white Oscar nominations and snub of "Selma" director Ava DuVernay and star David Oyelowo, but because it's just

premiered at Sundance last week, suggests that Hollywood needs more executives of color, and they need to be granted the same room to fail and succeed as other studio honchos.

"Like, just because I'm



U.S. actor Johnny Depp poses for photographers during a photo session prior to a press conference to promote his latest film "Mortdecai" in Tokyo, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015.

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Johnny Depp has recovered from a cold. And a chupacabra attack.

The 51-year-old actor

was all smiles while joking Wednesday with journalists in Tokyo about why he was a no-show at a news conference a day earlier.

A chupacabra in Japan? Depp says it came from his suitcase

Depp explained he had been ill but said that wasn't the reason.

"I was attacked yesterday morning by a very rarely seen or experienced animal called 'chupacabra.' I fought with it for hours. They're very persistent, very mean. And I'm pretty sure it came into my suitcase. I threw him off the 23rd floor. So we'll never see him again. Thank you for understanding," he said.

The chupacabra is a legendary creature rumored to inhabit parts of the

Americas.

Depp's tale drew laughs from the crowd of reporters.

When asked what the title character in his latest film would do if he was in the room, Depp channeled the character and replied, "He would probably say something like 'How do you do?'. My name is Charlie Mortdecai and I've come here to take as much money from you as I possibly can. and jewelry, and art, and stuff."

More than 200 journal-

ists were kept waiting for an hour before organizers canceled Tuesday's event because Depp was unwell. "Mortdecai," an eccentric heist comedy, tanked at the box office, making an estimated \$4.1 million in North America and \$5.2 million elsewhere last weekend.

Depp has a huge fan base in Japan and said he hopes the film will be received well in the country. "Mortdecai" will be released in Japan on Feb. 6. □

Don't Blame NAFTA



JOE NOCERA

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The day after President Barack Obama's State of the Union address, a handful of Democratic House members, along with one senator, Bernie Sanders of Vermont, held a news conference to denounce one of the very few proposals the president put forward that actually has a chance of passage. The objects of their displeasure were the new trade agreements being negotiated by the administration.

"Since I've been in Congress, I've never seen a trade bill that in any way benefited U.S. manufacturers and workers," said Rep. Louise Slaughter, who has represented the Rochester, New York, area for 28 years. She pointed to Kodak as an example of a company harmed by trade accords, especially the landmark North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA. Since the deal involving the U.S., Canada and Mexico went into effect in 1994, Kodak's Rochester workforce has shrunk to 2,300 from 39,300.

"We are fighting for the future of middle-class families," said Rep. Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut. "These trade deals make it much easier for corporations to send American jobs overseas." Over the past 20 years, Connecticut has lost more than 96,000 manufacturing jobs, she said, because of agreements that failed to protect U.S. workers.

Sanders told the assembled media that while he liked the president's speech, "he was wrong on one major issue, and that is the Trans-Pacific Partnership." He added, "I do not believe that continuing a set of bad policies, policies that have failed, makes any sense at all."

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a trade agreement being negotiated among 12 countries, including Japan, Canada, Vietnam, Mexico, Australia and Peru; the countries involved in the negotiations represent nearly 40 percent of global gross domestic product. It is as complex as it is ambitious. Yet, while the Republican leadership has vowed to work with Obama on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (as well as on another deal being negotiated with the European Union), the Democrats have been vocal in their opposition. In the short term, they don't want to give the president so-called fast-track authority, which would allow the administration to negotiate the deal and then

hand Congress a finalized agreement that it could only vote up or down, with no amendments. (Fast-track procedures have been used to conclude 14 trade agreements since 1974.)

You'd need a heart of stone not to be sympathetic to the concerns of the Democrats. Over the past two decades, lots of manufacturing jobs have vanished in the United States, inflicting a great deal of pain on workers. During those same 20 years, NAFTA has been in force. Linking those job losses to the existence of NAFTA is a leap the Democrats - and progressives in general - have made.

The question that needs to be asked, however, is whether that link is justified. "I am skeptical of definitive judgments on NAFTA," said Edward Alden, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. "We started offshoring television assembly in the 1960s" - decades before NAFTA. Yes, many assembly plants have been built in Mexico since NAFTA went into effect. But China, where millions more manufacturing jobs have migrated - and with which we have a huge trade deficit - doesn't even have a trade agreement with the United States.

Edward Gresser, the executive director of Progressive Economy, a left-leaning think tank, noted that other factors were taking place at the same time as NAFTA: the growth of container ships, the lowering cost of communications, the rise of global industries. With or without trade deals, globalization is an unstoppable force. What NAFTA really is, Gresser told me, is a proxy for globalization.

One mistake the NAFTA negotiators made more than two decades ago was taking worker rights and environmental protections out of the agreement itself and putting them into a side letter. They were never effectively enforced. Those negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership expect to rectify that error this go-round. They are also aiming to pry open the Japanese auto and agricultural markets to U.S. producers and include protections for a free and open Internet. It has, in other words, a lot more potential to do good than harm.

When I spoke to Slaughter on Thursday afternoon, she was still riled up. "These crazy trade agreements," she called them at one point. She added, "Rochester really suffered."

She told me about all the jobs lost at Kodak. "I think NAFTA brought down Kodak," she said. But of course it didn't. Kodak's problems came about because digital photography made film unnecessary and Kodak didn't shift course in time. She was blaming NAFTA for Kodak's self-inflicted wounds. But then her tone brightened. She told me about all the new companies - 55 in all, she said - that had taken space in the old Kodak buildings. Some were even run by former Kodak engineers. Which, of course, is precisely the way globalization is supposed to work. □



And Now: Air Republicans



GAIL COLLINS

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Tough times for the House Republicans. Speaker John Boehner's high point last week must have been not clapping when President Barack Obama talked about job growth in the State of the Union.

After that, things went downhill fast. Anti-abortion groups converged on Washington on Thursday to protest the anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision. The plan was for the House to welcome them into town by passing a bill banning abortions after 20 weeks. Didn't work out.

The signs had been bad for the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. In committee, its sponsor, Trent Franks, R-Ariz., claimed that the number of rapes resulting in pregnancy was "very low." He did not actually say that a woman can't get pregnant if she didn't enjoy the sex, but it seemed for a minute as if we'd returned to that neighborhood. Whoops. The bill was amended to provide an exemption for women who had been raped. But that sparked a new fight over whether the exemption should be for all victims of rape or just the ones who had reported the crime to the police. A group of Republican women, including Rep. Renee Ellmers of North Carolina, pointed out, correctly, that most

victims don't file such reports.

You may remember that Ellmers was challenged last fall by former "American Idol" runner-up Clay Aiken, who she defeated handily. Now Aiken, who turns out to have been filming his campaign, is moving forward to become the star of a TV reality series on elections. And probably having more fun than Ellmers.

"I'm sorry Clay Aiken lost," tweeted the conservative blogger Erick Erickson when Republican leaders gave up and pulled the 20-week bill from the calendar. A contributor on the Red State blog followed up with the somewhat less playful: "Is Renee Ellmers Worthy of Life?"

Actually, it turns out that Ellmers is a co-sponsor of the Sanctity of Human Life Act, which holds that every fertilized egg has "all legal and constitutional attributes and privileges." Her concerns about the language of the rape exemption seem to have been a mixture of legal, philosophical and political concerns, all of them nuanced in the extreme. She suggested to *National Journal* that her party shouldn't be starting off the year with an issue that wasn't of interest to "millennials."

Rape exemptions have come to dominate the abortion debate. Abortion rights groups use lack of concern for rape victims as an illustration of the heartlessness of their opponents. Their opponents propose exemptions to show that they're reasonable. But, really, it makes no sense either way. The question of when a fetus inside a woman's body becomes a human being is theological. If you truly believe that human life begins the moment a sperm fertilizes an egg, you can't admit any exceptions. The only real debate is whether you get to impose your religious beliefs on the entire country.

Not that anybody's trying to be that rational.

"I'm going to need your help to find a way out of this definitional problem with rape," Sen. Lindsey Graham told the anti-abortion

marchers.

This was four days after Graham announced that he was considering a run for the Republican presidential nomination. It's very possible that the phrase "this definitional problem with rape" will last longer than his candidacy. In his speech, Graham gave a shout-out to exemptions for rape and incest.

"Some disagree, including the pope," he noted to the marchers. Francis I has, indeed, been clear and consistent on this matter, despite the moment on a flight back from Manila when he expressed concern about people breeding "like rabbits." One theologian told CBS News that people should understand that there was a difference between the pope-on-a-plane and the pope-on-the-ground, the latter's comments being more official.

Perhaps we could all use this distinction in our daily lives. When your spouse quotes something you wish you'd never said, just explain that was an "in-the-air" remark.

Anyhow, about the House and abortion.

The moderate Republican women scored a big win - at least until a backlash from the right had their aides shooing away reporters. But other party members said they, too, were sick of fooling around with the Tea Party's agenda.

"Week 1, we had the vote for the speaker. Week 2, we debated deporting children. Week 3, we're debating rape and incest. I just can't wait for Week 4," Rep. Charlie Dent of Pennsylvania complained to Jeremy Peters of *The Times*. Humiliated by the collapse of the 20-week bill, House leaders quickly substituted one banning federal funding for abortion, which is already banned.

"This was such a high priority that they didn't think about it until late last night," Rep. Daniel Kildee, D-Mich., sniped during the rather lethargic debate.

The bill passed easily. No matter. It was all just in the air. □

Recipe Lab: This Rates a Lone Star. That's a Good Thing.

JULIA MOSKIN

© 2015 New York Times

If you like to make chili and don't live in Texas, consider yourself lucky.

Passions run high in that state over pressing issues like what brand of canned tomatoes to use (if any), how much cumin is too much and whether browning the meat is authentic. Don't get them started on garnishes.

rina add to the depth of the sauce, but in these quantities, they don't push their own flavors forward.

Chili at its most basic is a stew of protein and chilies. The Aztecs were making it long before the 16th century, when the Spanish friar Bernardino de Sahagún recorded the offerings at urban markets in his book "Historia General de las Cosas de la Nueva España":

as chili. It is alive and well in Mexico, where most regions have a version of it. In centuries past, and in many places today, it is made with carne seca, musky, smoky air-dried beef that softens in water and absorbs the heat and sweetness of the chilies. But most home cooks now make it with fresh meat, cut in large chunks or wide slices.

Maria Contreras Rico, who is

able or even preferable in chili. Anyone can order coarse-ground beef at a butcher shop, but supermarket ground beef produces something closer to a sloppy Joe, not fit for any bowl - certainly not a Super Bowl.

On the subject of garnishes for chili, it is safe only to say that all of them are acceptable and none of them are authentic, with the possible

chopped

3 tablespoons masa harina or 1 corn tortilla, torn into pieces (optional)

2 tablespoons ground pure chili powder, such as pasilla, Chimayo or ancho

1 tablespoon dried oregano

1 (12-ounce) bottle Negra Modelo beer

1 28-ounce can diced tomatoes, or 3 10-ounce cans Ro-Tel canned tomatoes with green chilies

1 ounce unsweetened chocolate

3 whole dried large red chilies, such as New Mexico or guajillo

Chopped fresh cilantro, for serving

Fritos or warmed flour tortillas, for serving



A Texas-style chili, from a recipe that includes whole cumin and coriander seeds, dried large chiles, unsweetened chocolate and a bottle of Negra Modelo beer, served garnished with freshly chopped onion and cilantro. There is a certain alchemical balance to great Texas chili, which, like all great beef stews, combines the fragrant spices of a tagine, the succulent beefiness of pot roast and the slurpy heat of a goulash.

(Morgan Ione Yeager/The New York Times)

It is liberating to note that chili was in no way invented by Texans, so they do not have a lock on authenticity. That said, there is a certain alchemical balance to great Texas chili, which, like all great beef stews, combines the fragrant spices of a tagine, the succulent beefiness of pot roast and the slurpy heat of a goulash. This recipe, handed to me by a native of Austin and refined over decades, is ideal for potlucks, Super Bowl parties and stormy days. It includes at least four incarnations of chili and can be customized - not only for heat but for taste, as some cooks prefer the tanginess of guajillo chili to the raisin notes of ancho. The beer, chocolate and masa ha-

chili made with lobster, fish, frogs and dozens of varieties of green, red, yellow, pickled, smoked and dried chilies.

Later, but long before Texas statehood, Nueva España embraced all of the American Southwest and most of Central America. The cowboys who worked the Spanish-owned cattle ranches near the Rio Grande spent months away from home in the dry borderlands, living mostly on tough longhorn meat, water and as many dried chilies as it took to make the meat palatable. This dish, called carne con chili or carne con chili Colorado (Colorado meaning red, specifically the dark russet of dried chilies), is the immediate ancestor of Tex-

80 years old, has a cooking channel on YouTube devoted to the classic home cooking of Mexico. Her carne con chili would probably never get past the first round at any of the dozens of U.S. chili cook-offs: just a nub of garlic; no onions or spices; and many, many chilies Japoneses, the tiny, fiery pods that she combines with mild chilies California (dried Anaheims) for their rich, aged flavor.

You do not need any special kind of meat to make great chili. But ground beef, outside of Texas, is not an option. The ground beef sold for chili in Texas is much coarser and chunkier than the U.S. standard. That's why some fine Texas cooks deem ground beef accept-

exception of Saltine crackers. I say we let the Texans have them.

TEXAS CHILI

Time: 2 hours

1 tablespoon whole cumin seeds

1 1/2 teaspoons whole coriander seeds

4 pounds beef chuck roast or steak

1 teaspoon salt, more to taste

3 tablespoons vegetable oil, plus extra as needed

1 large yellow or white onion, chopped, plus extra chopped onion for serving

6 large garlic cloves, minced

4 to 7 large fresh green jalapeños (depending on how much heat you like), stemmed, seeded and

1. In a small heavy skillet, toast cumin and coriander seeds until fragrant. In a mortar and pestle, or in a coffee grinder, grind to a powder and set aside.

2. Meanwhile, roughly cut beef into 2-inch cubes, or slice it against the grain into pieces about 1/4-inch thick by 1 1/2 inches square. Sprinkle with salt.

3. In a large, heavy pot over high heat, heat oil until shimmering. Working in batches to avoid crowding the pan, brown the meat, turning occasionally until crusty. Adjust heat to prevent scorching. As it is cooked, remove the meat to drain on paper towels. Add more oil as needed for browning, but do not clean out the pot.

4. To the empty but crusty pot, add onion, garlic, jalapeños, masa harina or tortilla (if using), chili powder, cumin-coriander powder and oregano. Cook, stirring, until onion has softened, 5 to 10 minutes. Add meat, beer, tomatoes, chocolate, whole dried chilies and 1 quart water. Bring to a gentle simmer, and simmer about 1 1/2 hours, or until meat is fork-tender. Remove the dried chilies. Taste and add salt if necessary.

5. Serve immediately or let cool and refrigerate. The chili tastes best 1 or 2 days after it is made.

6. Reheat over low heat if necessary and serve in bowls, sprinkled with onion and cilantro. Add Fritos for crunch, or dip tortillas into the gravy.

Yield: 12 servings